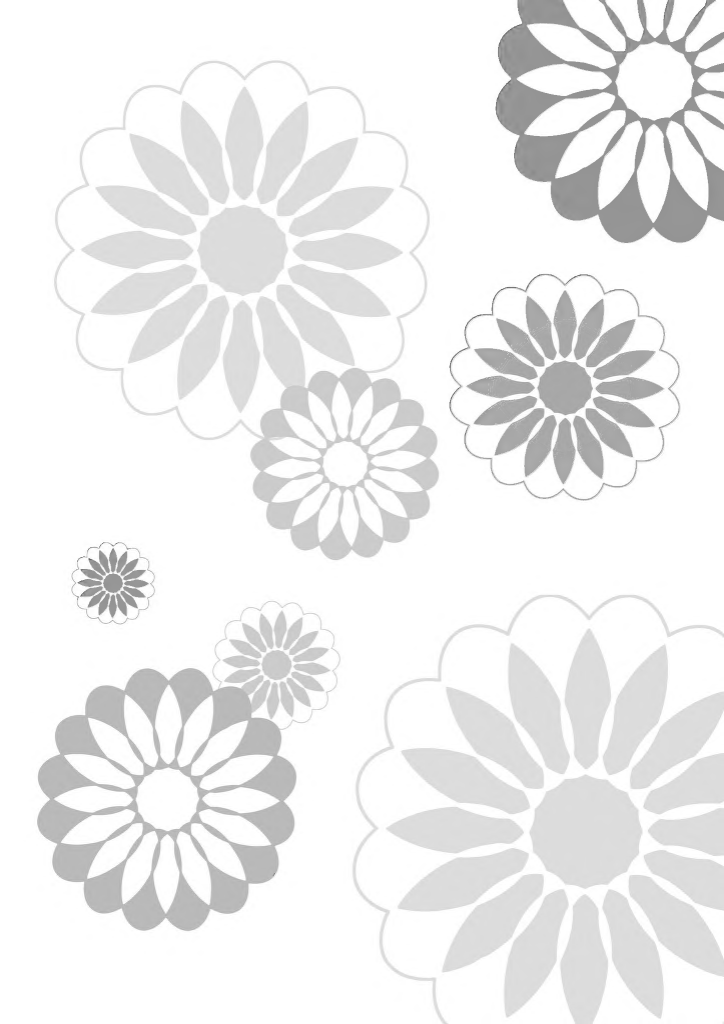
Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ

26

藤島康介

KOSUKE FUJISHIMA



Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 26

STORY AND ART BY
Kosuke Fujishima

TRANSLATION BY
Christopher Lewis, Dana Lewis AND
Lea Hernandez

LETTERING AND TOUCH-UP BY
Susie Lee AND Betty Dong
WITH Tom2K

DARK HORSE MANGA™

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CHAPTER 163

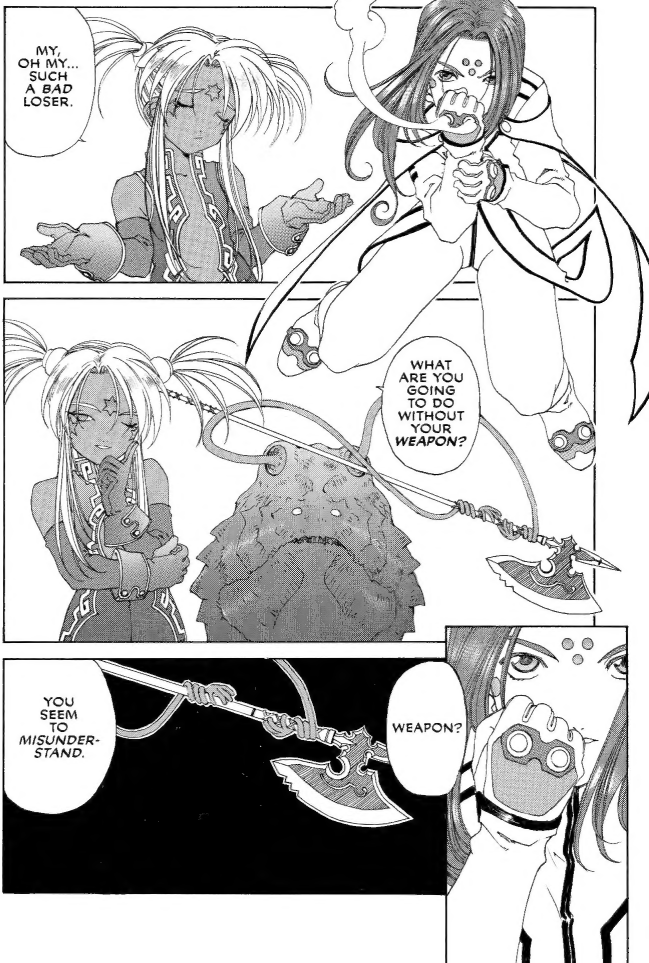
Flight of the Fighting Wings

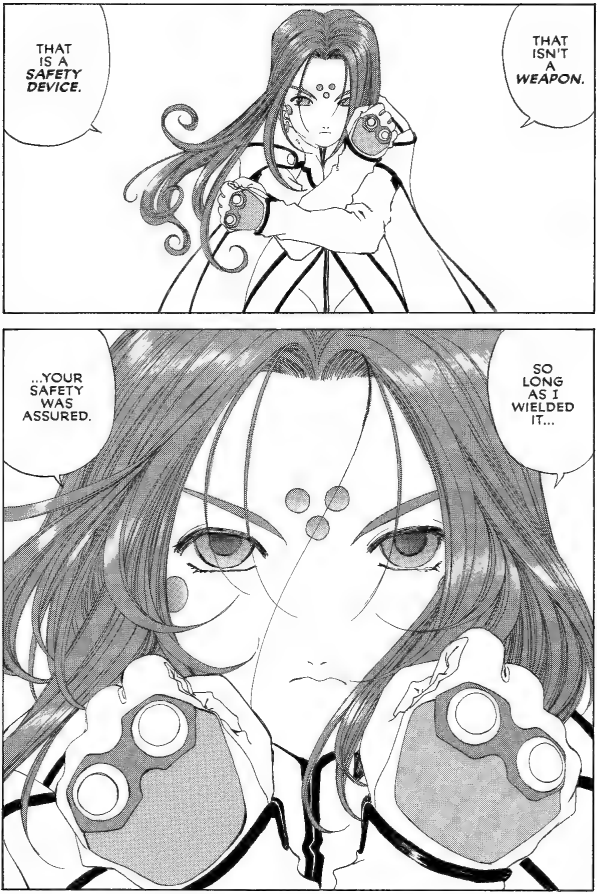
THAMM
FUN

TASTY.

VNNNNN
FSSHH

GRANG
LIND!!


MY, OH MY... SUCH A *BAD* LOSER.
WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITHOUT YOUR *WEAPON*?
WEAPON?
YOU SEEM TO *MISUNDER-STAND*.


THAT ISN'T A WEAPON.
THAT IS A SAFETY DEVICE.
SO LONG AS I WIELDED IT...
...YOUR SAFETY WAS ASSURED.

HAH?

WHA--?!
...SHE MOVED SO FAST...
SHOOM
SWING
FWIP

BRAHM
GAH!
OH, DEAR...

...LOOKS LIKE I DIDN'T DODGE VERY WELL.
SO *THAT* WAS YOUR LEGENDARY "GOLDEN EYE" ATTACK?
IT'S TOUGH.
WELL, THEN, WHAT SAY I SHOW YOU *FIFTY PERCENT*...
...OF MY POWER...?

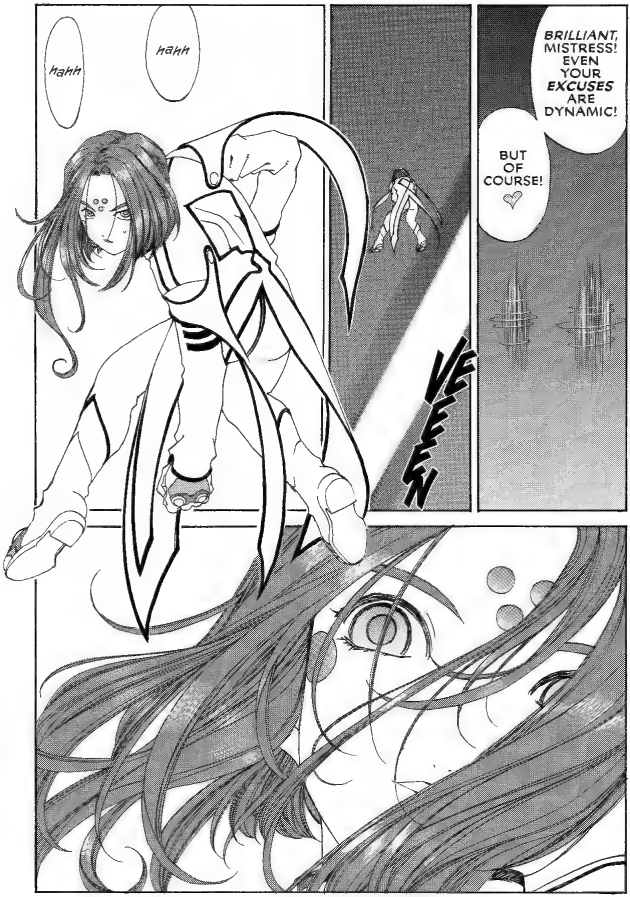
ZUMM
ZUMMM
MISTRESS HILD--!!

FWSSHH

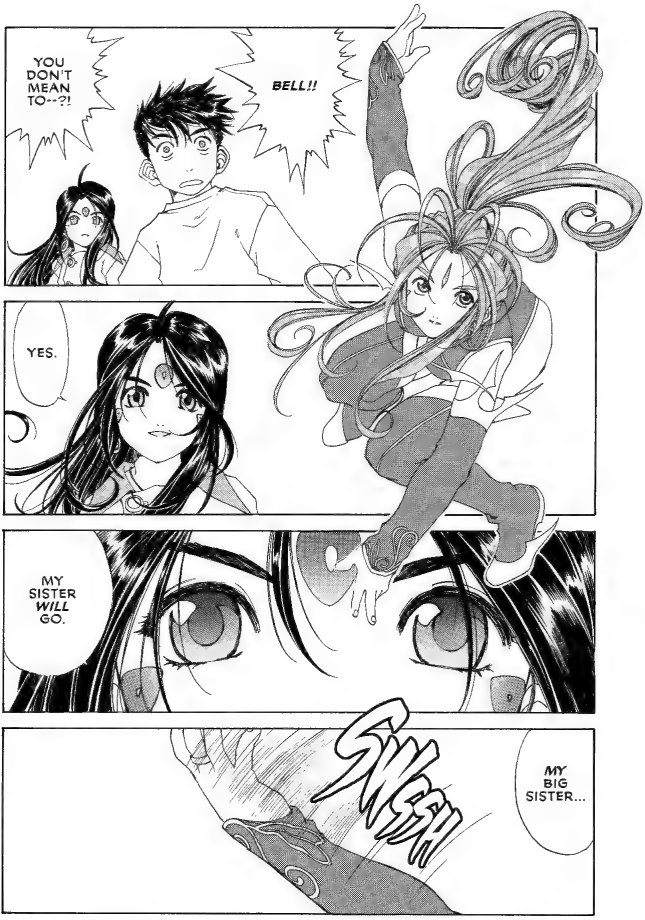
PHEW... THAT WAS CLOSE...
...
MARA, DEAR...
...SINCE YOU STOPPED ME BEFORE I HAD MY FUN...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO SUFFER.
GAH!!

VEEEN
HM?
L-LOOK OUT B-BELOW!!
SHREEEE

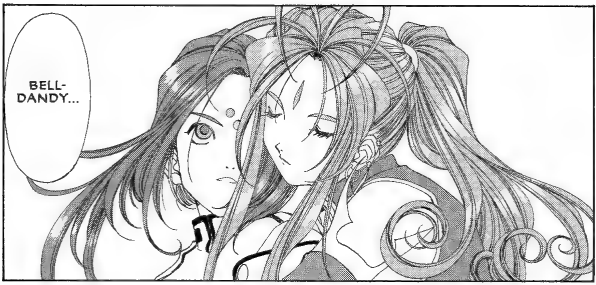
VEEEN
...HASN'T IT.
VEEEN
GONE BER-SERK...
...SO WE'RE OUTTA HERE!!
THIS HAS TURNED INTO A DRAG...
OKAAAAY...


hahh
hahh
BRILLIANT, MISTRESS! EVEN YOUR EXCUSES ARE DYNAMIC!
BUT OF COURSE!
VEEEN

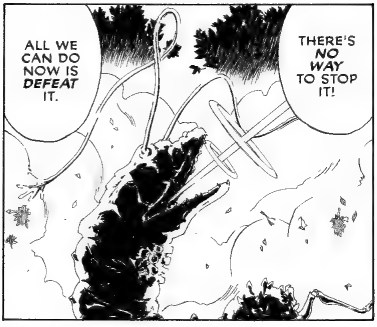
AAAAA!
KUAAA!
BELL-DANDY--!!
mmmmmm...

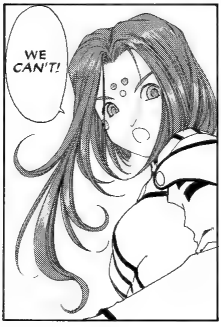

YOU DON'T MEAN TO--?!
BELL!!
YES.
MY SISTER WILL GO.
SWISH
MY BIG SISTER...

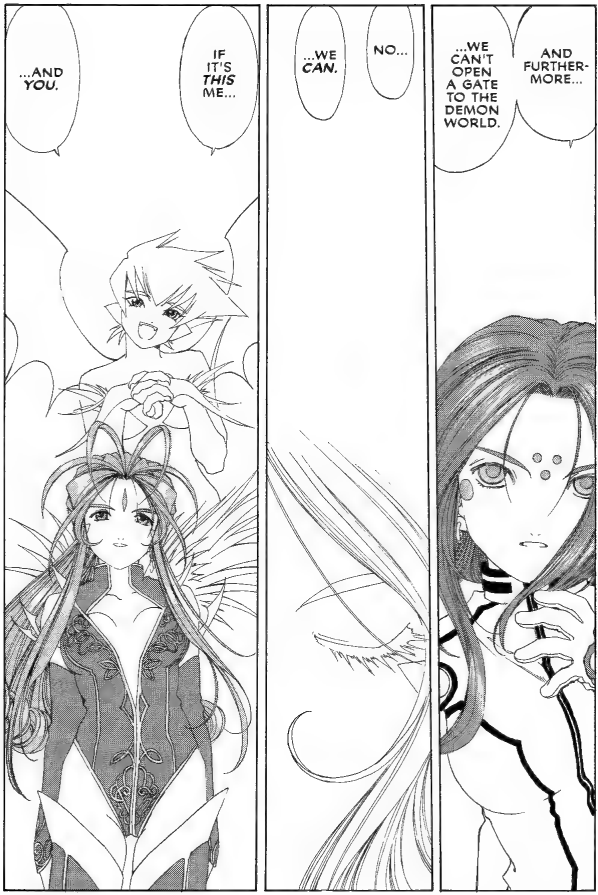
...WILL NEVER LEAVE A COMRADE TO FIGHT ALONE!


BELL-
DANDY...

...LET'S
SEND
THE EATER
OF ANGELS
BACK
WHERE
IT CAME
FROM.

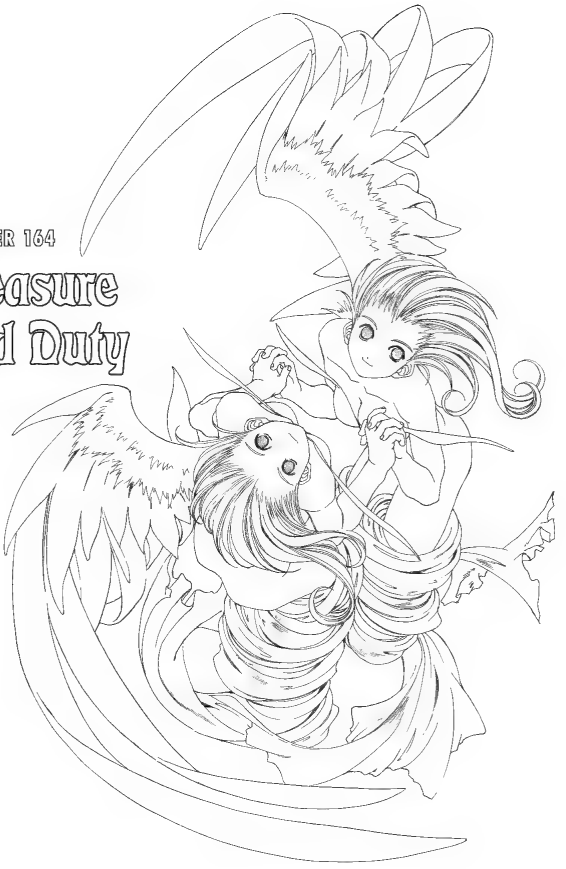

ALL WE
CAN DO
NOW IS
DEFEAT
IT.
THERE'S
NO
WAY
TO STOP
IT!

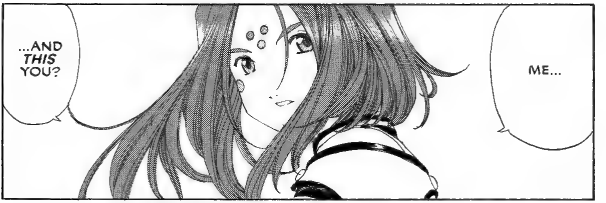

WE
CAN'T!

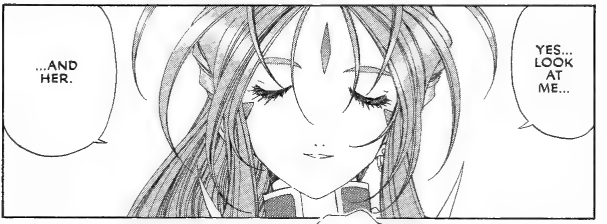

AND FURTHER-MORE...
...WE CAN'T OPEN A GATE TO THE DEMON WORLD.
NO...
...WE *CAN.*
IF IT'S *THIS* ME...
...AND *YOU.*

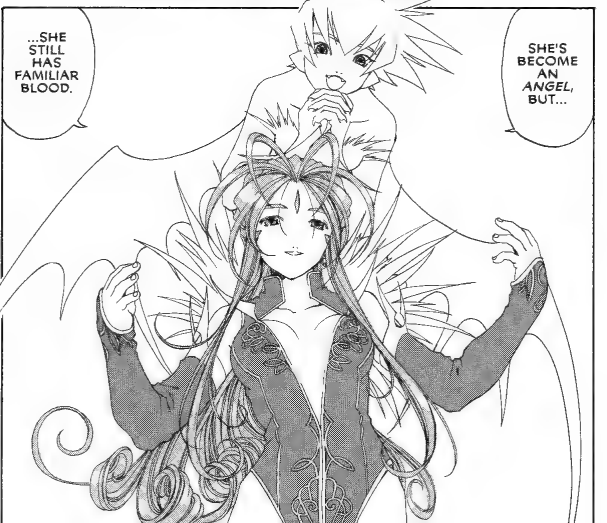
CHAPTER 164

Pleasure and Duty

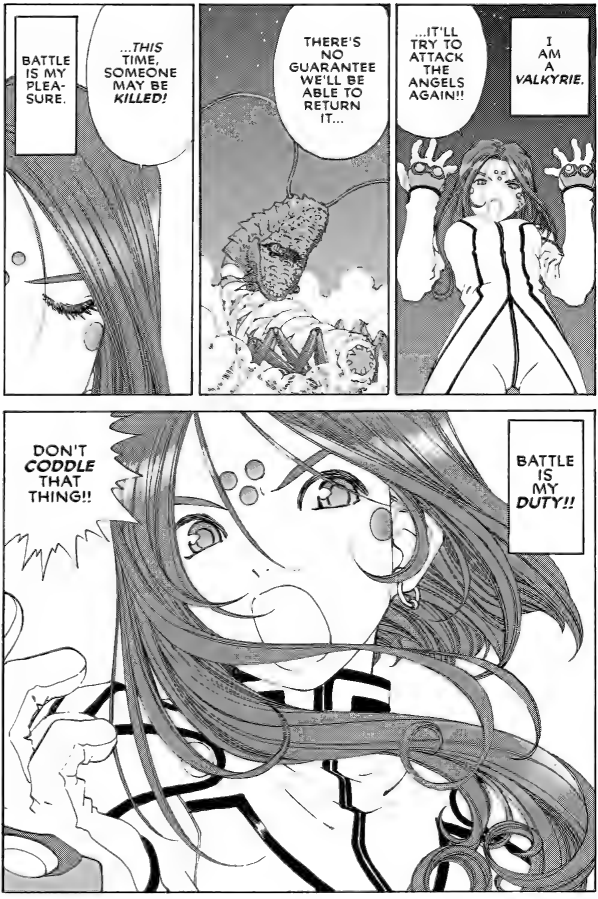


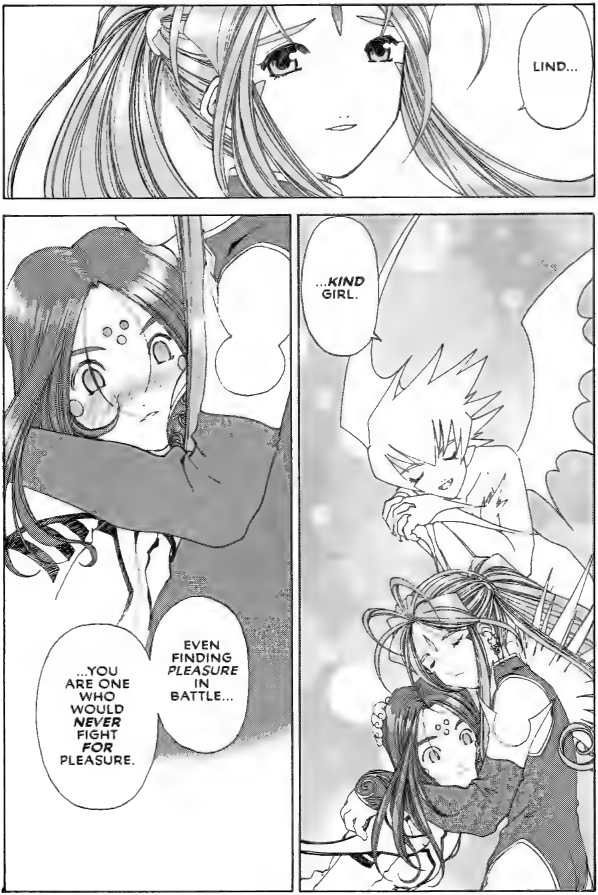

...AND *THIS* YOU?
ME...


...AND HER.
YES... LOOK AT ME...


...SHE STILL HAS FAMILIAR BLOOD.
SHE'S BECOME AN *ANGEL*, BUT...

BELL-DANDY...
...YOU TAKE FOR-WARD.
LIND...
...WE *MUST* DEFEAT IT.
IN ANY CASE...
WHY DO YOU LOOK SUR-PRISED?
!

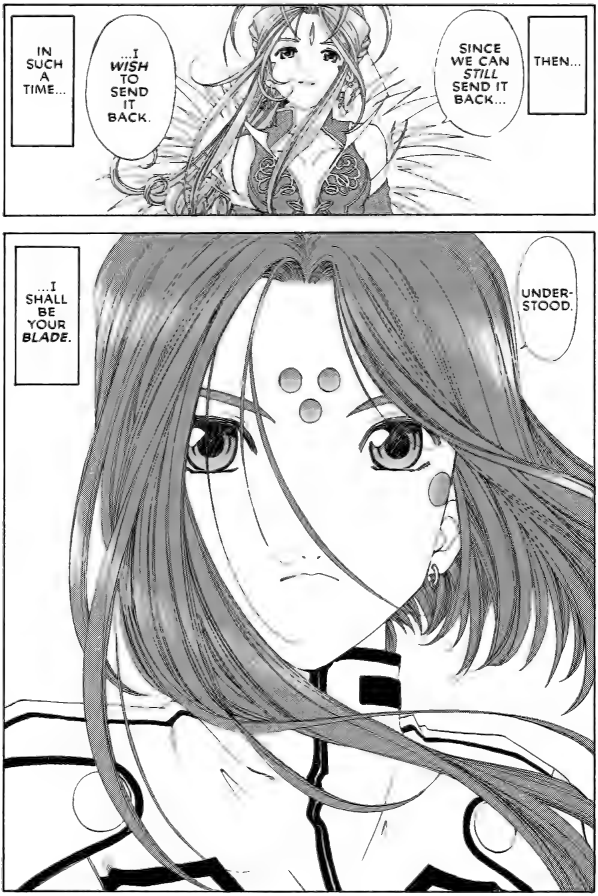

I AM A VALKYRIE.
...IT'LL TRY TO ATTACK THE ANGELS AGAIN!!
THERE'S NO GUARANTEE WE'LL BE ABLE TO RETURN IT...
...THIS TIME, SOMEONE MAY BE KILLED!
BATTLE IS MY PLEA-SURE.
BATTLE IS MY DUTY!!
DON'T CODDLE THAT THING!!


LIND...
...KIND GIRL.
EVEN FINDING PLEASURE IN BATTLE...
...YOU ARE ONE WHO WOULD NEVER FIGHT FOR PLEASURE.

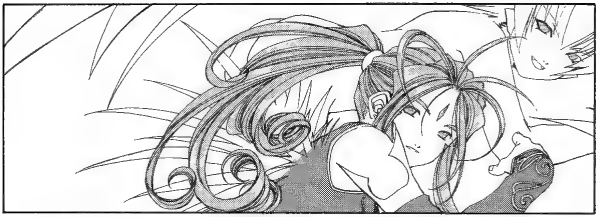
YOU WOULD NEVER FIGHT JUST TO DO BATTLE.
...
YOU MAKE FIGHTING YOUR *DUTY*...
...TO SPARE *US* FROM IT.
BUT REMEMBER...

...WE WILL BE WITH YOU.
IF A TIME COMES WHEN BATTLE IS INEVITABLE...
...YOU NEEDN'T BEAR THE BURDEN ALONE.

...WE WILL NEED TO DEFEAT IT...
SHE KNOWS...
...BELL-DANDY WILL FIGHT.
SURELY, IF THAT HAP-PENS...
...AT SUCH A TIME.
...AND THAT SHE MAY BE *DE-STROYED*...


IN SUCH A TIME...
...I *WISH* TO SEND IT BACK.
SINCE WE CAN *STILL* SEND IT BACK...
THEN...
...I SHALL BE YOUR *BLADE*.
UNDER-STOOD.

Thou Fierce Transient Power, Black-Winged and Fanged...

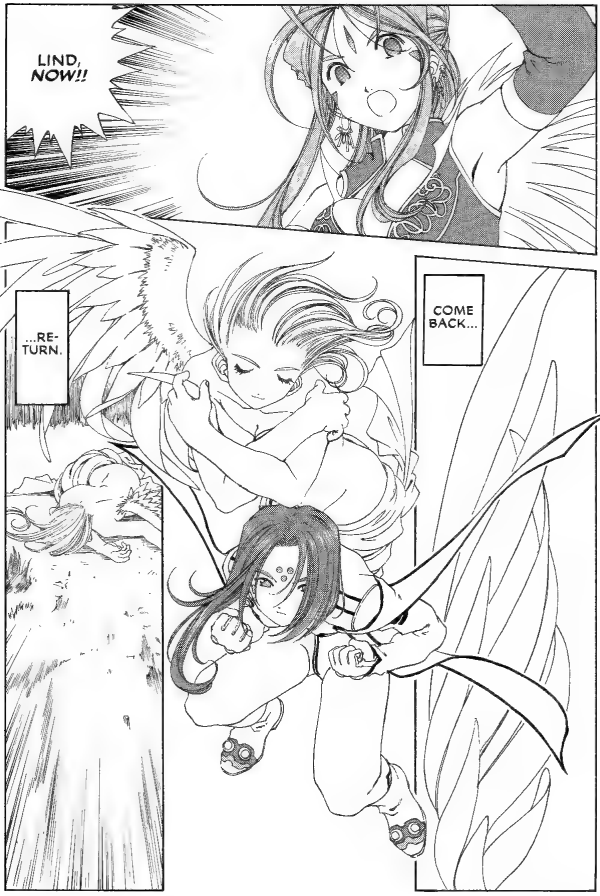


GRR
GRR
GRR
SPAK
FWD

LIND, DON'T DEFEND ME! CONCENTRATE ON YOUR ATTACK!
BUT...!
I TOLD YOU...
...I'LL BE ALL RIGHT.

!!
...
LOOK WHO'S TALKING! WHO WAS USING THERE KNOCKED OUT?
SAME TO YOU!!
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED!
WHY ARE YOU IN FRONT?!
WHSH

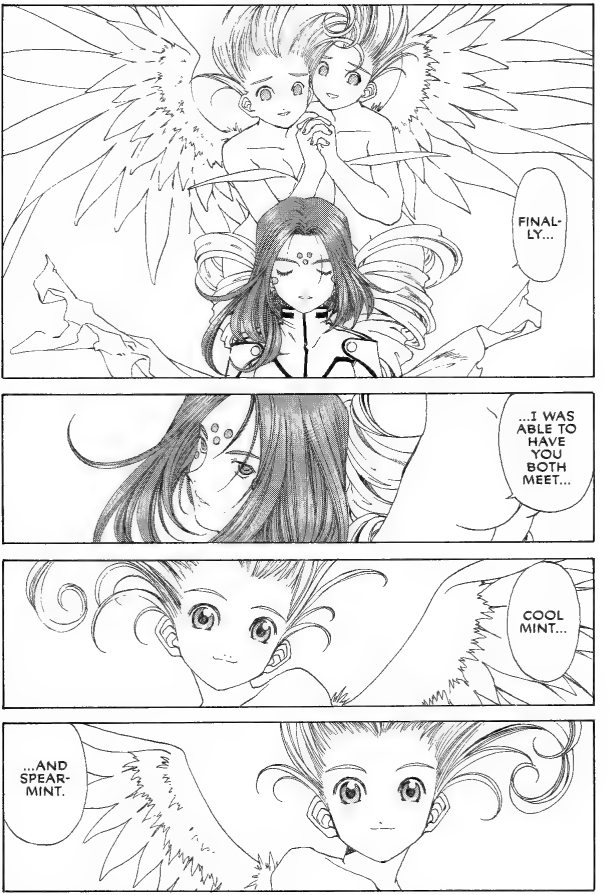
SINK
LOOKS LIKE YOU CAN'T OPEN IT ALL THE WAY.
NO.
RIGHT.
LET YOUR BIG SISTER HELP.

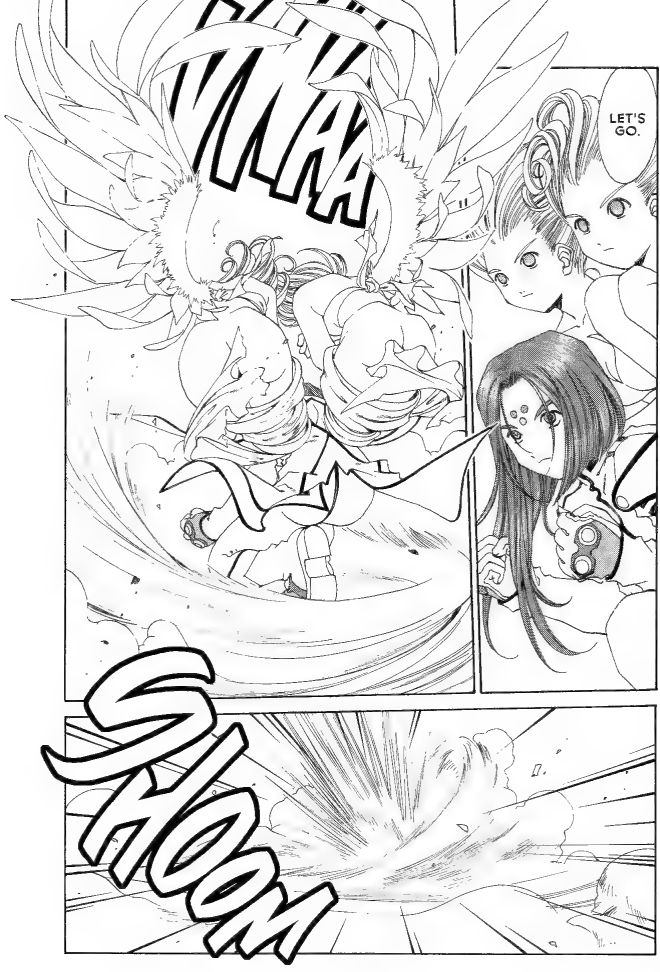

LIND, NOW!!
COME BACK...
...RE-TURN.

RETURN, SPEAR-MINT!!
WHOOSH

CHAPTER 165

With the Binary Angels


FINAL-
LY...
...I WAS
ABLE TO
HAVE
YOU
BOTH
MEET...
COOL
MINT...
...AND
SPEAR-
MINT.


LET'S GO.
SHOOM

THRMEE

HIGHER!

YA AA!
SSSSSSSS
?

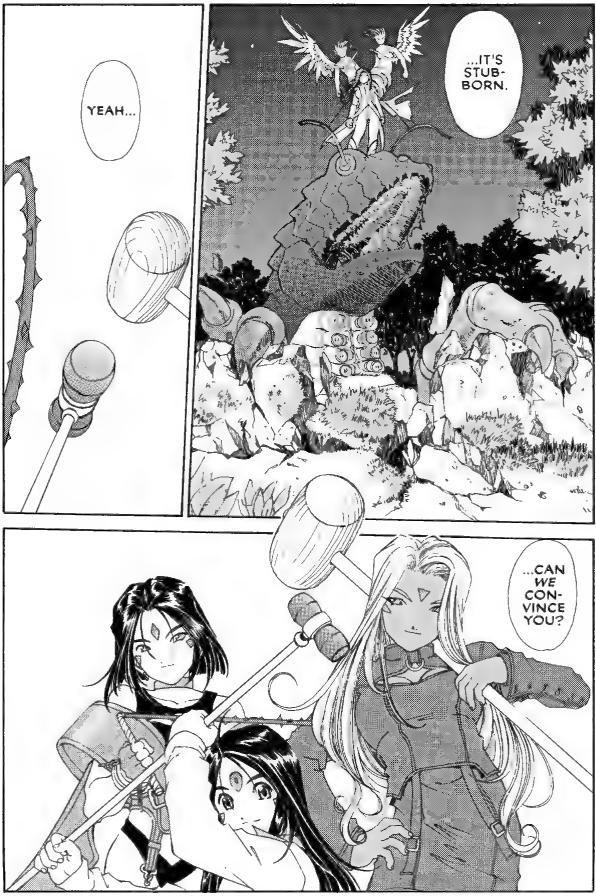
HERE SHE COMES !!
WHA--?!
...
AAAAAA
AAA

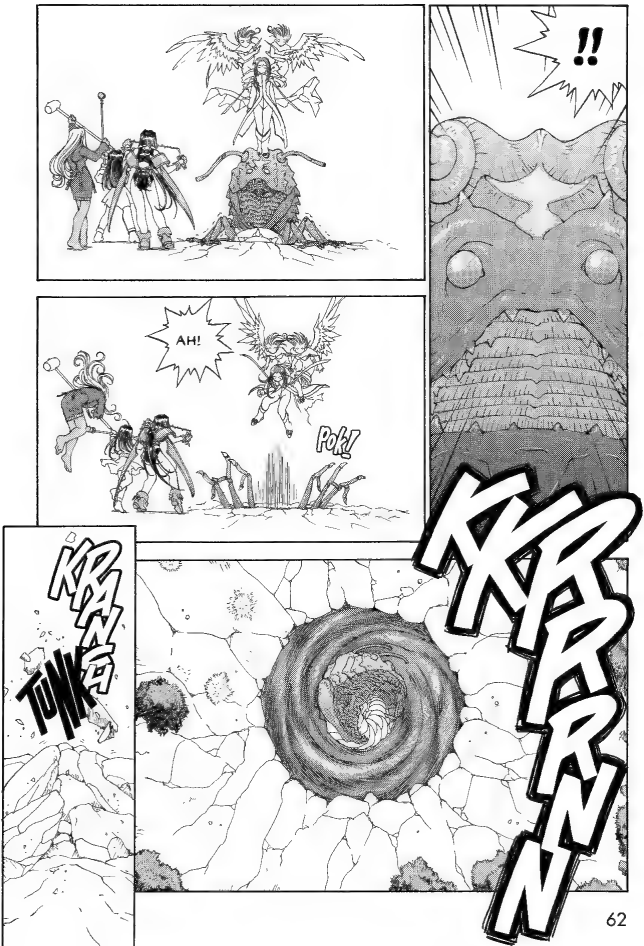
EH?
...PLEASE HOLD THE GATE!!
URD...
GOTCHA.
...
KISHH

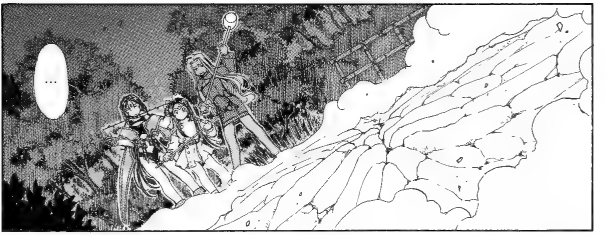
VEEEEN
GRORK
AAAA
VOOM

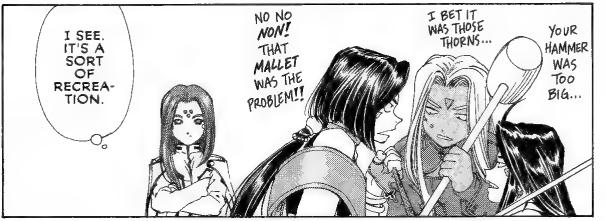
grrh?
KRAAK

WH--
WHOOSH
WHOOM
W-
WOW...


YEAH...
...IT'S STUB-BORN.
...CAN *WE* CON-VINCE YOU?

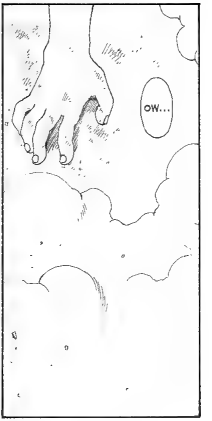

!!
AH!
Pok!
KRRRRN
KRANG
TUNK

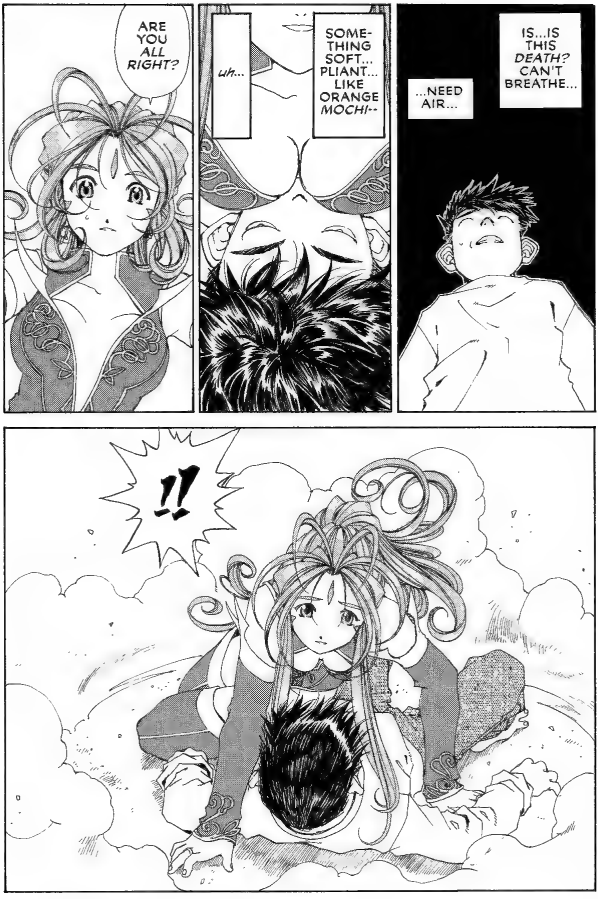

...


I SEE. IT'S A SORT OF RECREA-TION.
NO NO NO!! THAT MALLET WAS THE PROBLEM!!
I BET IT WAS THOSE THORNS...
YOUR HAMMER WAS TOO BIG...

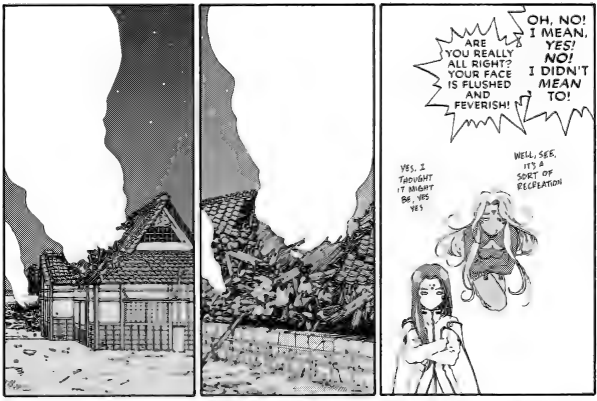
I CAN'T MOVE MY BODY--!!
DARK-NESS!!

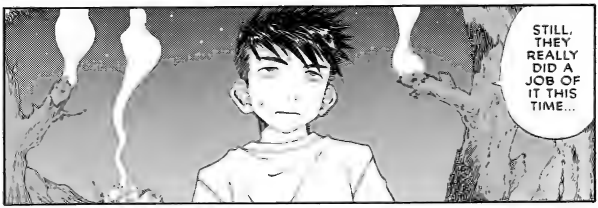
...HUH?

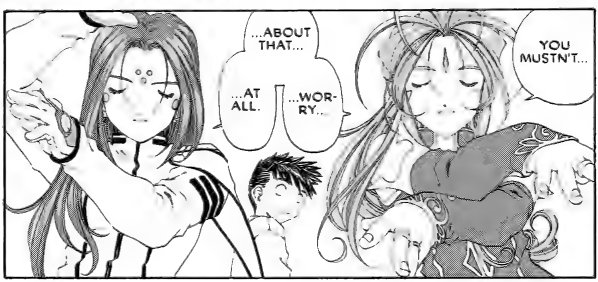

OW...


ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
uh...
SOME-THING SOFT... PLIANT... LIKE ORANGE MOCHI--
IS...IS THIS DEATH? CAN'T BREATHE...
...NEED AIR...
!!

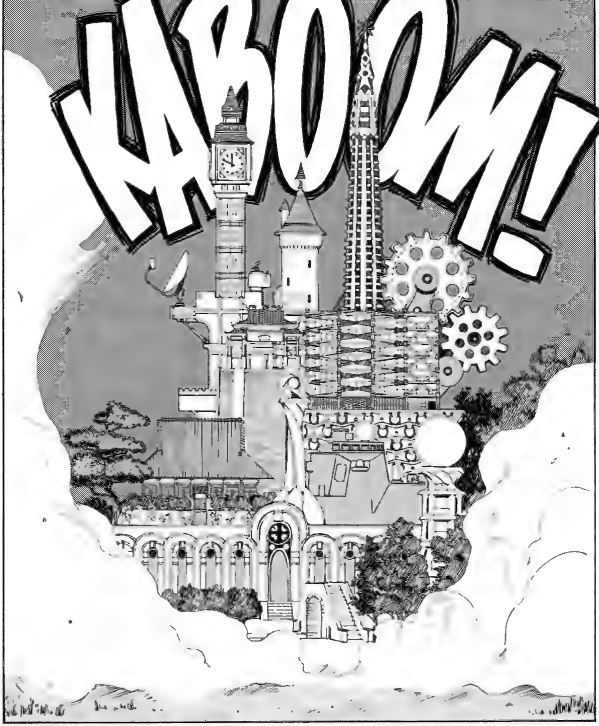
twing!
OH, YES!!
squish
I AM SO ALL RIFFFF
...

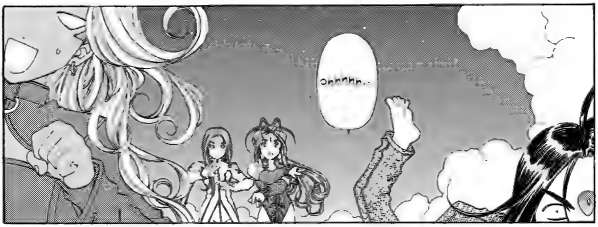

ARE YOU REALLY ALL RIGHT? YOUR FACE IS FLUSHED AND FEVERISH!
OH, NO! I MEAN, YES! NO! I DIDN'T MEAN TO!
YES, I THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE. YES YES
WELL, SEE, IT'S A SORT OF RECREATION


STILL, THEY REALLY DID A JOB OF IT THIS TIME...


...ABOUT THAT...
...AT ALL.
...WORRY...
YOU MUSTN'T...

SKKSHHH
WE SHALL HELP REBUILD THE TEMPLE—
OHHH

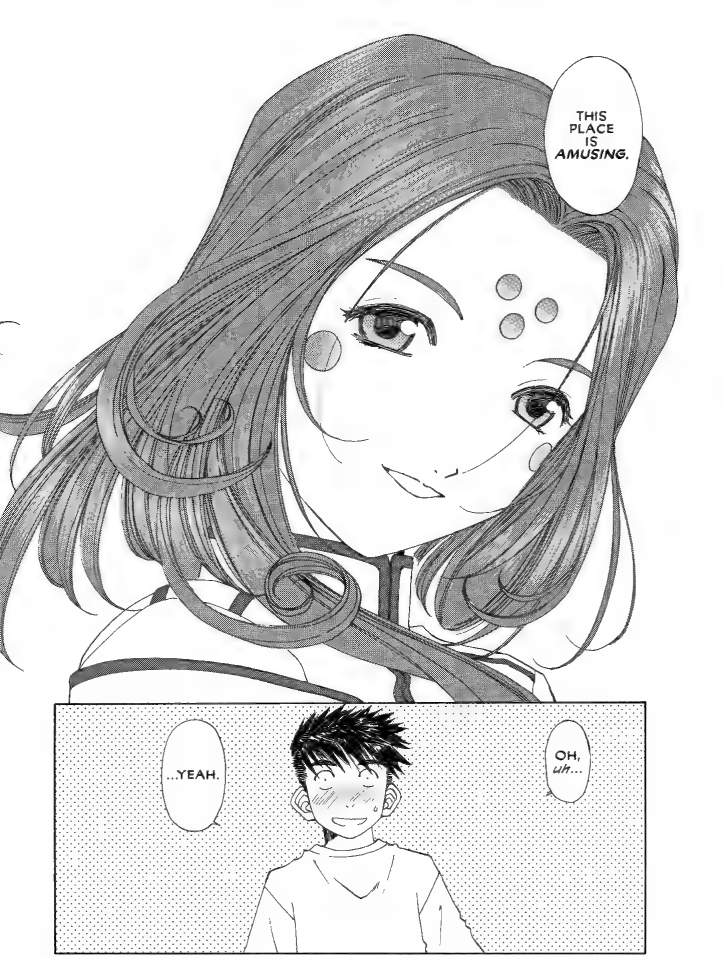

KABOOM!


ohhhhh...

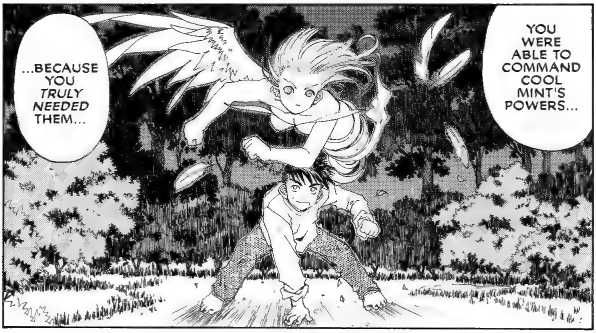
CHAPTER 166

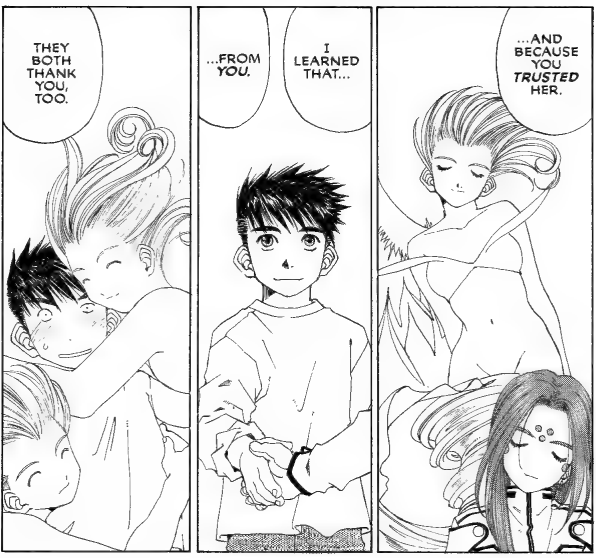
To Call You Friend

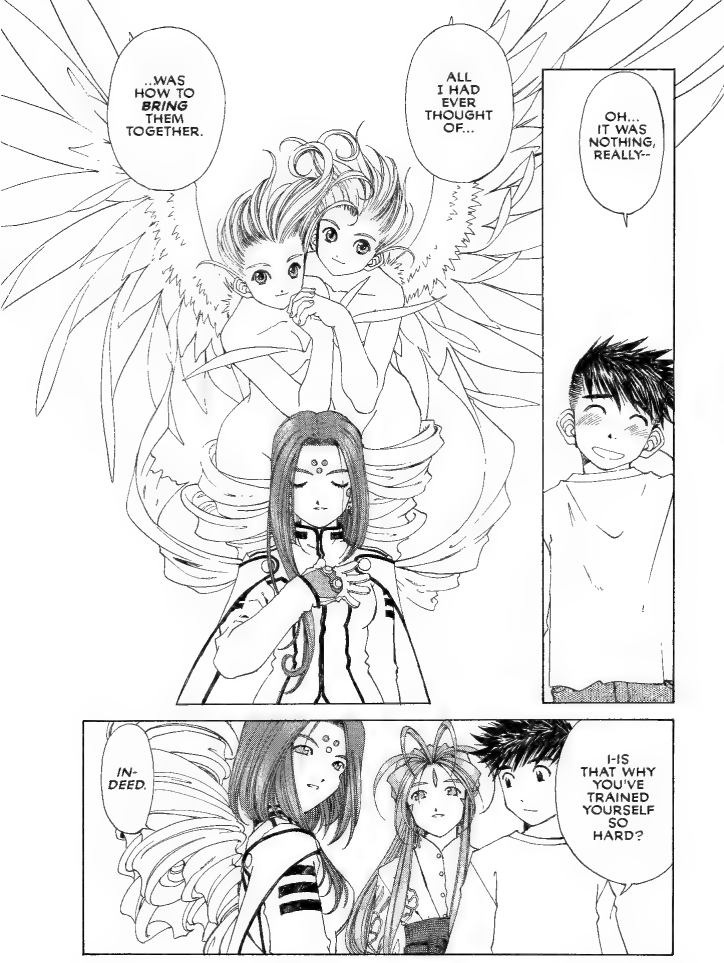
WHOOMP
ummm...
HMF.
AMUSING.


THIS PLACE IS AMUSING.
...YEAH.
OH, uh...

YES...
..THAT'S HOW TO SMILE, LIND.
THANK YOU.
IF IT WASN'T FOR YOU...
...I COULDN'T HAVE BROUGHT THEM TOGETHER.

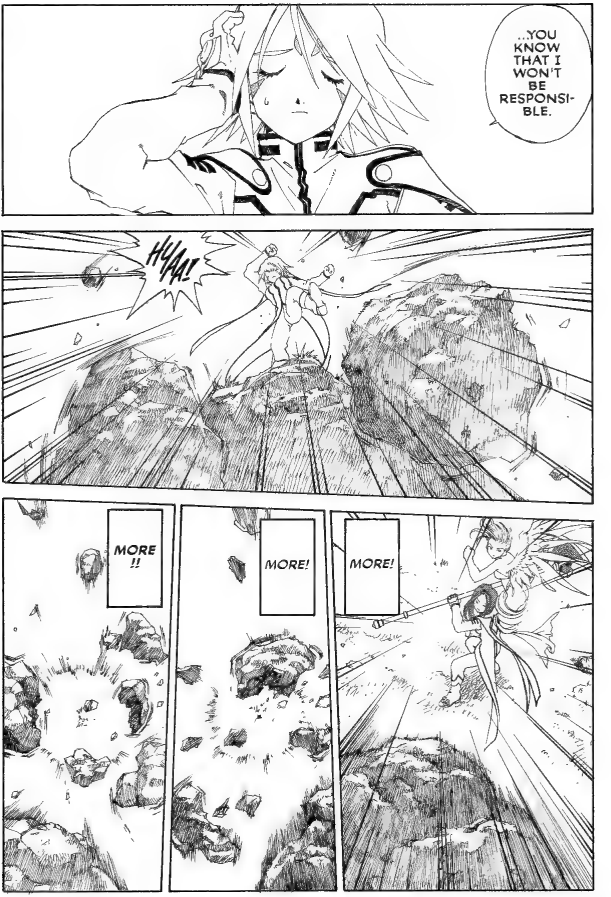

YOU WERE ABLE TO COMMAND COOL MINT'S POWERS...
...BECAUSE YOU *TRULY NEEDED* THEM...

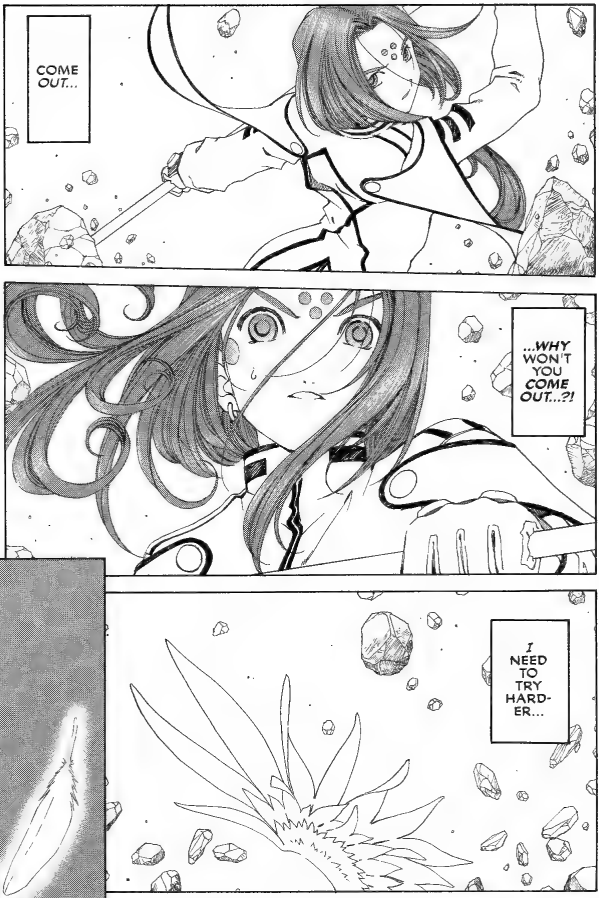

...AND BECAUSE YOU *TRUSTED* HER.
I LEARNED THAT...
...FROM *YOU.*
THEY BOTH THANK YOU, TOO.

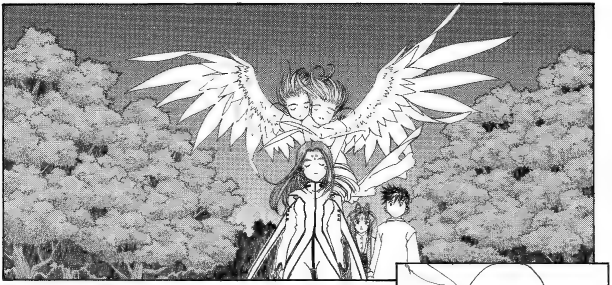

...WAS HOW TO BRING THEM TOGETHER.
ALL I HAD EVER THOUGHT OF...
OH... IT WAS NOTHING, REALLY--
IN-DEED.
I-IS THAT WHY YOU'VE TRAINED YOURSELF SO HARD?

"I THOUGHT MY POWER WAS LACKING.
SHING
BAM
"THAT THEY COULD ONLY BE ONE..."
SKRASH
AGAIN ...!

YOU'D BETTER STOP NOW.
THAT'S A GRADE FIFTEEN BATTLE AX...
..YOU'RE GOING TO *RUIN* YOUR BODY.
...
MY MISTAKE.
THUD
THIS ONE.
GRADE *EIGHT-EEN*...


...YOU KNOW THAT I WON'T BE RESPONSI-BLE.
HYAA!
MORE !!
MORE!
MORE!


COME OUT...
...WHY WON'T YOU COME OUT...?!
I NEED TO TRY HARD-ER...

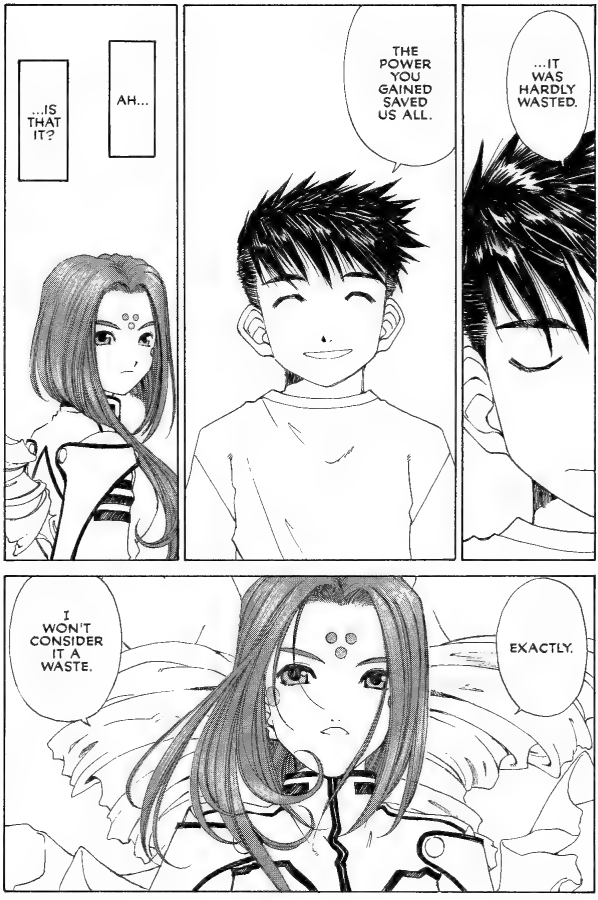


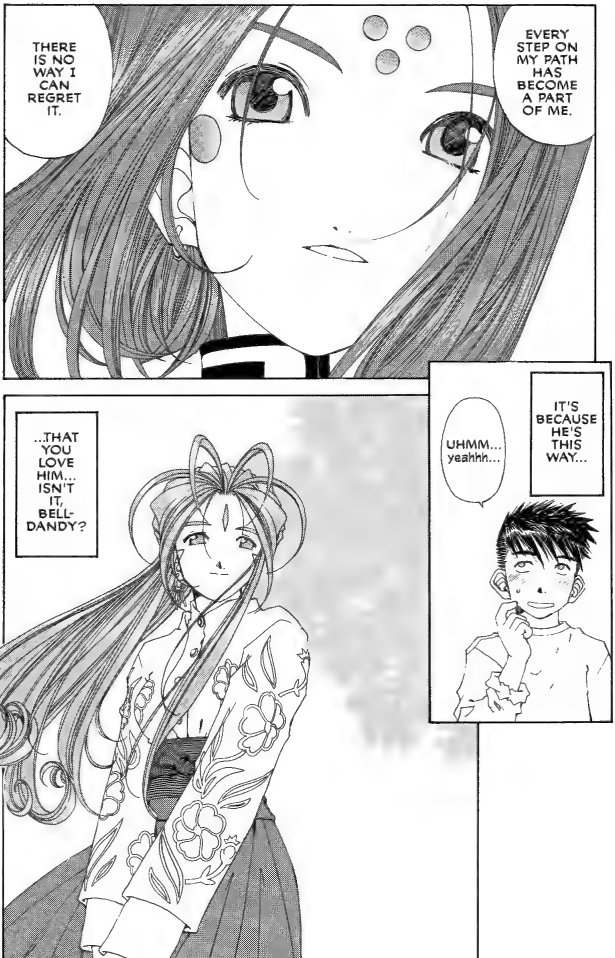
IT WASN'T *MY* POWER THAT I LACKED...

...AND *THEY* DIDN'T NEED IT FROM ME.

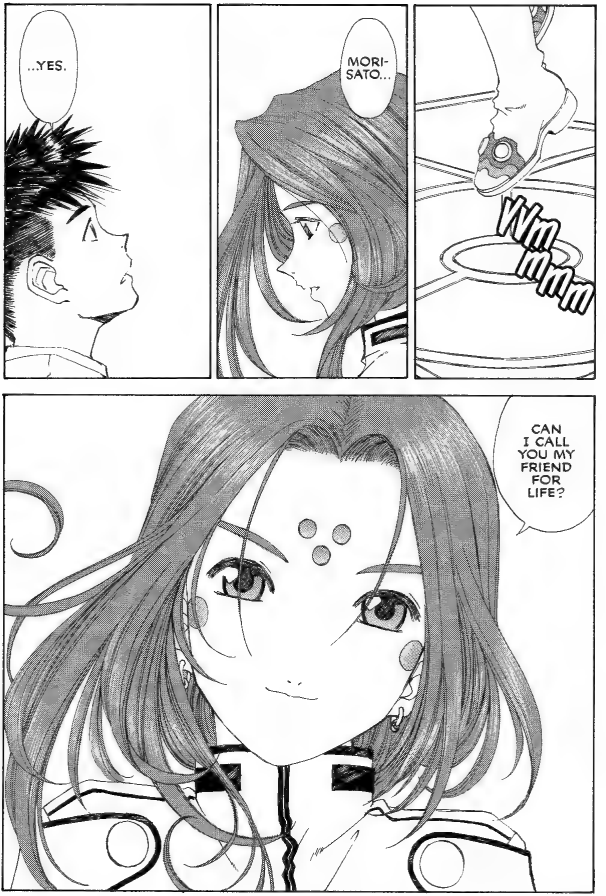
THEY NEEDED ME... TO NEED *THEIRS*.

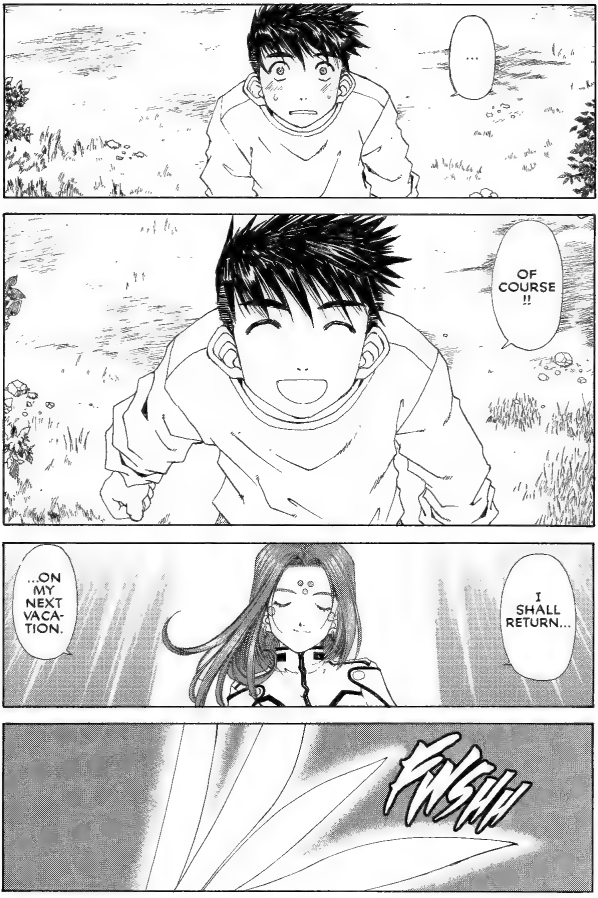
THAT WAS...
!
...ME, TOO.
...I TOOK A LONG, LONG WASTED TRIP.
BY SEEKING TO BUILD POWER...
NO...


...IS THAT IT?
AH...
THE POWER YOU GAINED SAVED US ALL.
...IT WAS HARDLY WASTED.
I WON'T CONSIDER IT A WASTE.
EXACTLY.

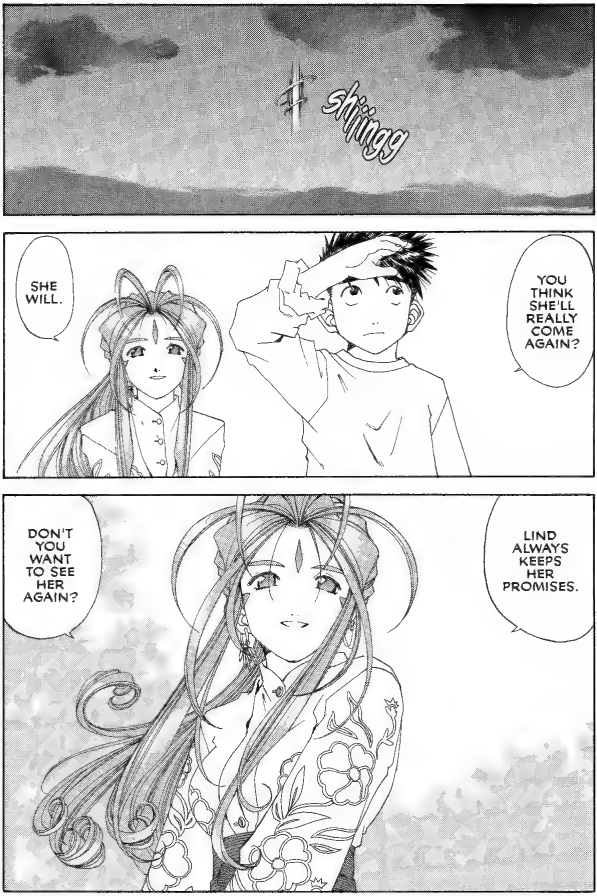

EVERY STEP ON MY PATH HAS BECOME A PART OF ME.
THERE IS NO WAY I CAN REGRET IT.
IT'S BECAUSE HE'S THIS WAY...
UHMM... yeahhh...
...THAT YOU LOVE HIM... ISN'T IT, BELL-DANDY?

I ENVY YOU JUST A LITTLE...
IT SEEMS NEW DUTIES CALL...
PAM-PAHHH

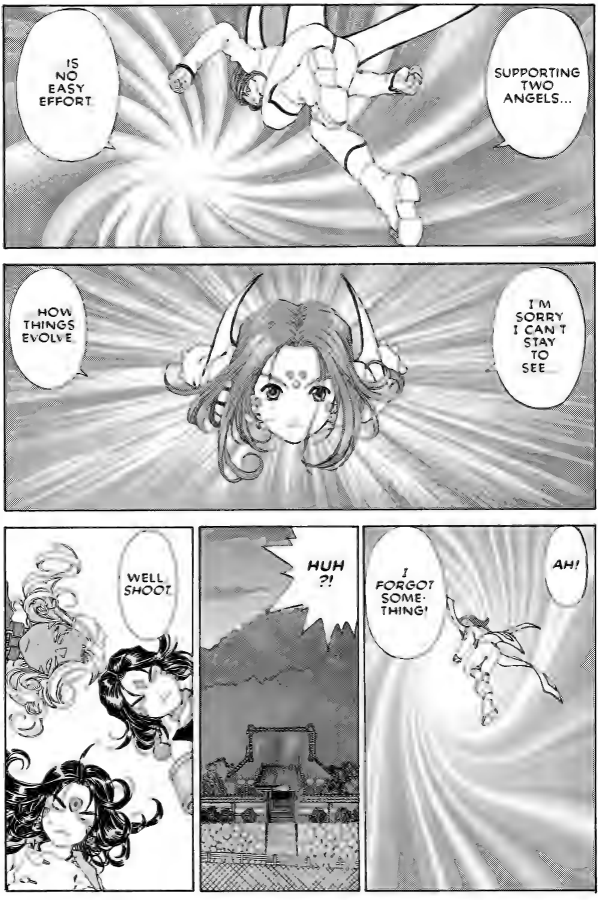

..YES.
MORI-SATO...
Wm mmm
CAN I CALL YOU MY FRIEND FOR LIFE?

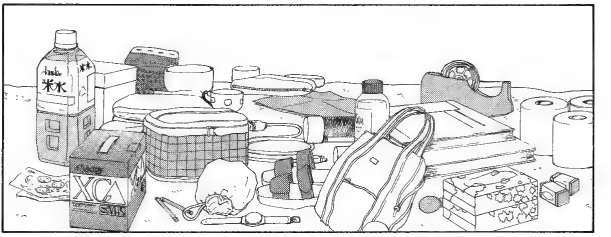

...
OF COURSE !!
I SHALL RETURN...
...ON MY NEXT VACATION.
FUSHH

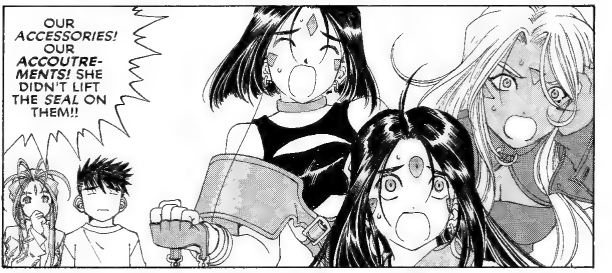
MISSION ACCOM-PLISHED.


shiiingg
YOU THINK SHE'LL REALLY COME AGAIN?
SHE WILL.
LIND ALWAYS KEEPS HER PROMISES.
DON'T YOU WANT TO SEE HER AGAIN?

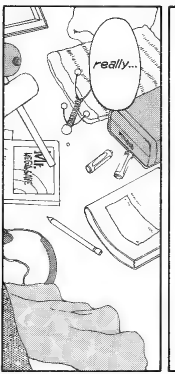
SHE'S WELCOME ANY DAY!
SHE'S MY FRIEND FOR LIFE YOU KNOW?
WMMM
WILL BELL-DANDY...
...BE ALL RIGHT?


IS NO EASY EFFORT
SUPPORTING TWO ANGELS...
HOW THINGS EVOLVE
I'M SORRY I CAN'T STAY TO SEE
WELL SHOOT
HUH ?!
I FORGOT SOME-THING!
AH!




OUR ACCESSORIES! OUR ACCOUTREMENTS! SHE DIDN'T LIFT THE SEAL ON THEM!!

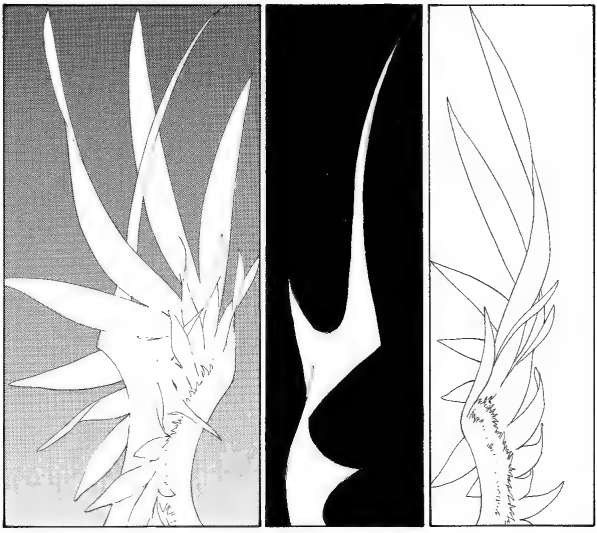
...When's that going to be...?!

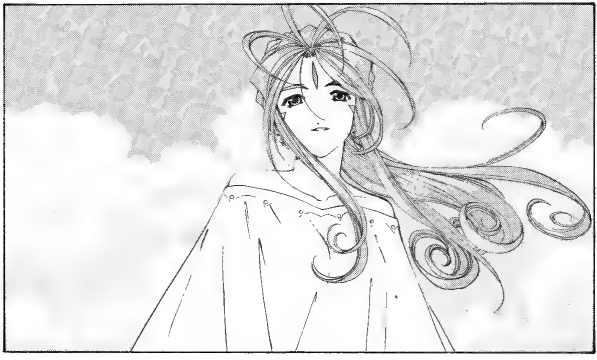

really...

GUESS THEY'LL HAVE TO STAY THERE UNTIL HER NEXT VISIT...

CHAPTER 167

Inside Belldandy

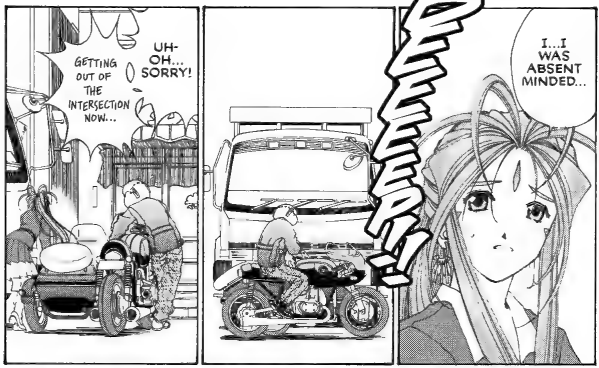




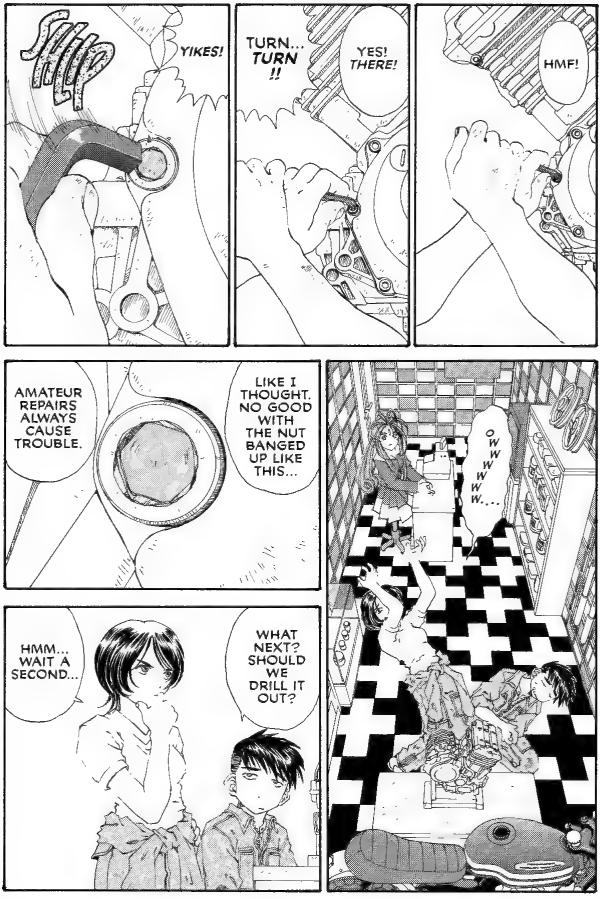
FSSHH

KLANG
SCREECH

NO...
YOU DIDN'T NOTICE?
...A CAT.
...WHAT HAP-PENED?
MMM...


BEEEP!
I...I WAS ABSENT MINDED...
UH-OH... SORRY!
GETTING OUT OF THE INTERSECTION NOW...

THAT IMAGE...


FLIP
YIKES!
TURN... TURN !!
YES! THERE!
HMF!
AMATEUR REPAIRS ALWAYS CAUSE TROUBLE.
LIKE I THOUGHT. NO GOOD WITH THE NUT BANGED UP LIKE THIS...
OWWWWWW....
HMM... WAIT A SECOND...
WHAT NEXT? SHOULD WE DRILL IT OUT?

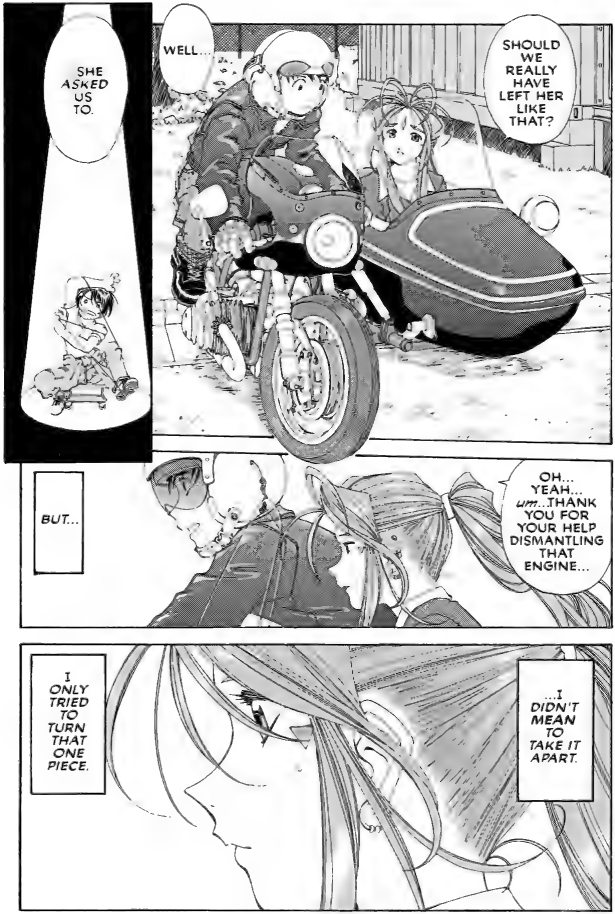
SHALL I HELP?
SHE HATES GIVING UP.
LET'S TRY DRIVING ON AN OVERSIZE ONE TO SEE IF IT'LL TURN.
I SHOULD TURN IT COUNTER-CLOCK-WISE... YES?
OH, THAT WOULD BE GREAT. DO YOU MIND ...?

HEY...
KLAKK
UM...
KLAK
KLAK
KLAKKLAK
SHINK
SHINK SHINK
CHINK
CHINK
ER...
TINK
TUNK
PLINK
PLOP

UM...
KRAAAH
rattle
I HAD TO SEARCH FOR IT- HARDLY EVER USE THIS SIZE...
TA-DAAH!
WHITE THREAD CARVING!
MYSTERY TECH-NIQUE!

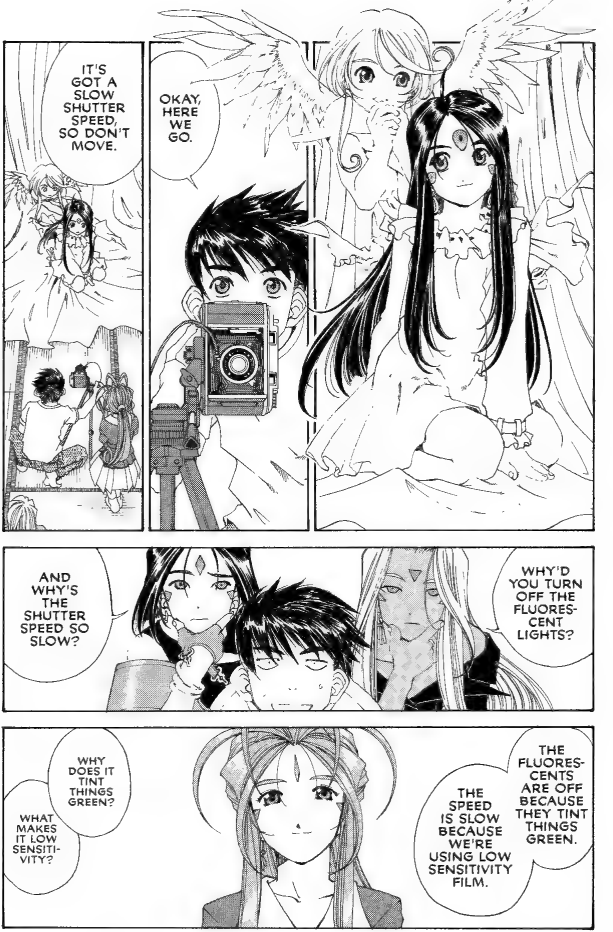
HOW DID YOU DESTROY THAT ENGINE, MORISATO?!
BUT IT'S NOT FUNNY!
um...
...
...
FROM "HOU-CHOUNIN AJIHEI" ...YEAH, I GOT THE JOKE.
SEE, IT'S FROM AN OLD COOKING MANGA... USING JUST A STRING, THE CHEF CUTS UP A WHOLE SIDE OF...
WAIT!
UHM... CHIHIRO...
...ABOUT BELL-DANDY.
I'LL HAVE TO TELL HER, HONEST-LY...
...I CAN'T COVER THIS UP.
NO... NO...

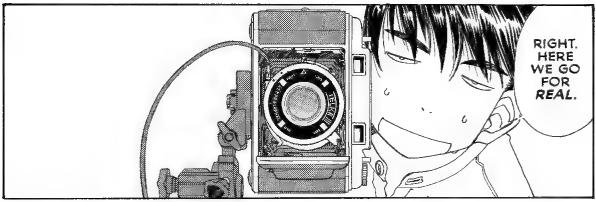
I'LL WORK NIGHT AND DAY... TO *LEARN* THE SECRET OF THE *"WHITE THREAD CARVING"*!
I CAN'T *TOLERATE* MY EMPLOYEE KNOWING A TECHNIQUE I DON'T!!
I MUST CONCEN-TRATE... CONCEN-TRATE!!
NO DISTRAC-TIONS!
UM...
ER... SEE YOU LATER.
GACK

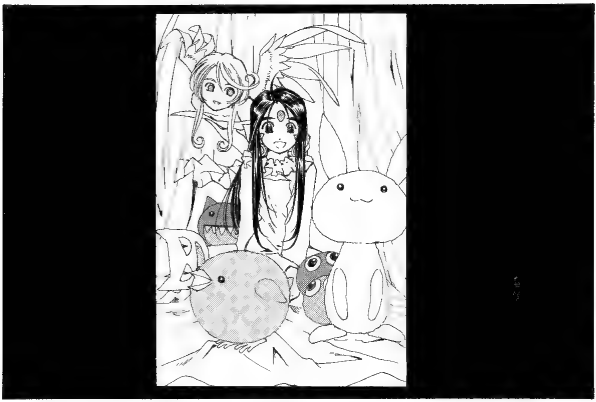

SHE ASKED US TO.
WELL...
SHOULD WE REALLY HAVE LEFT HER LIKE THAT?
BUT...
OH... YEAH... um...THANK YOU FOR YOUR HELP DISMANTLING THAT ENGINE...
I ONLY TRIED TO TURN THAT ONE PIECE.
...I DIDN'T MEAN TO TAKE IT APART.

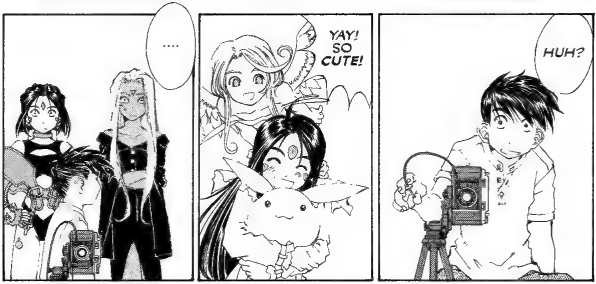
BUT WHAT HAPPENED WAS...
HEY! HEY! HEY!
WE'RE HOME!
HUH? DON'T BE STUPID!
WHAT'S GOT YOU SO EXCITED? FROG JUMP ON YOU?
Plop

KEIICHI, TAKE HER PICTURE FOR HER.
SHE'S JUST EXCITED HER ANGEL'S BACK.
HO HO HO... SKULD LOVES FROGS. ♡
URD, YOU BIG LIAR!
WE WERE LOOKING FOR THE CAMERA TO TAKE YOUR PICTURE!!
DO I LOOK THAT VAIN?
OKAY...
...LET ME HANDLE THIS, OKAY.
ka-chink!
URD! VOILÀ!
now we can take your picture!
I CAN'T HEAR YOU... I CAN'T HEAR YOU...

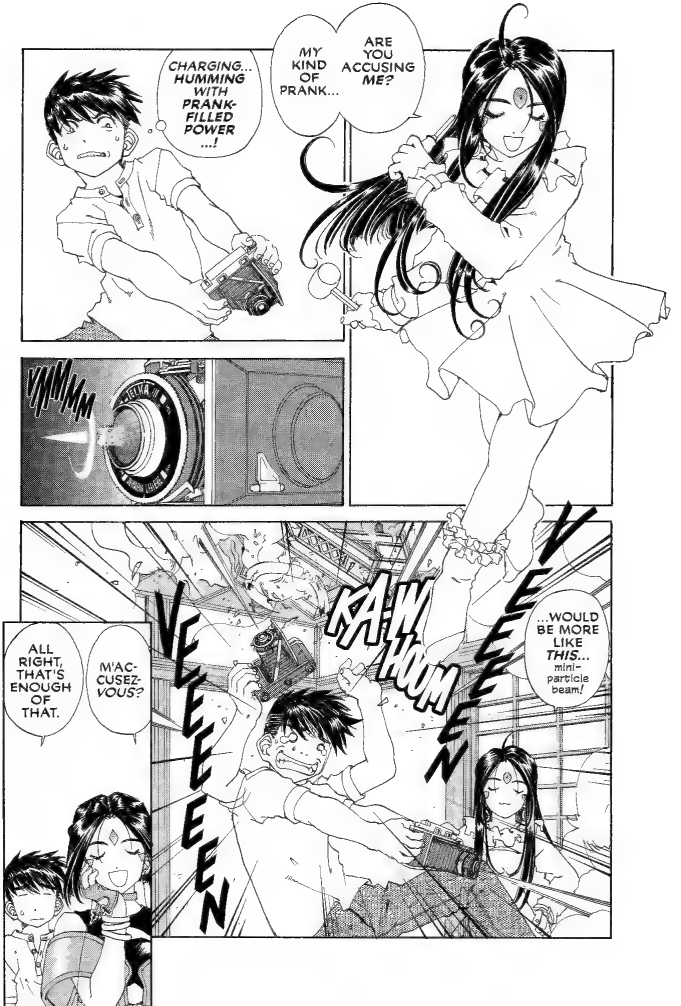

IT'S GOT A SLOW SHUTTER SPEED, SO DON'T MOVE.
OKAY, HERE WE GO.
AND WHY'S THE SHUTTER SPEED SO SLOW?
WHY'D YOU TURN OFF THE FLUORES-CENT LIGHTS?
WHY DOES IT TINT THINGS GREEN?
WHAT MAKES IT LOW SENSITI-VITY?
THE SPEED IS SLOW BECAUSE WE'RE USING LOW SENSITIVITY FILM.
THE FLUORES-CENTS ARE OFF BECAUSE THEY TINT THINGS GREEN.


RIGHT. HERE WE GO FOR REAL.




....
YAY! SO CUTE!
HUH?

ARE YOU ACCUSING ME?
...WHERE'D THOSE COME FROM?
MY KIND OF PRANK...
...WOULD BE MORE LIKE THIS...
BOMF
note the cork-screw action!
THEN...

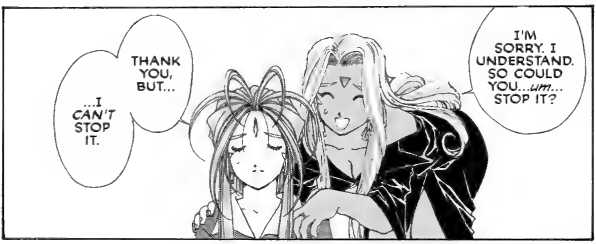

CHARGING.. HUMMING WITH PRANK-FILLED POWER ...!
MY KIND OF PRANK...
ARE YOU ACCUSING ME?
VMMMM
VEEEEEEN
KA-WHOOM
VEEEEEEN
...WOULD BE MORE LIKE THIS... mini-particle beam!
M'AC-CUSEZ-VOUS?
ALL RIGHT, THAT'S ENOUGH OF THAT.

HOW RUDE! I HAVE TALENTS TOO!
--WHICH MEANS...
...BUT, WAS IT REALLY MY FAULT?
...IF SHE WAS SURROUNDED BY STUFFED ANIMALS...
WELL, I DID THINK IT WOULD BE MORE CUTE...

I THINK IT'S *REJECTION SYNDROME*...
...FROM THE *Ffamiliar*.
BEARING TWO SUCH ENTITIES AT ONCE IS QUITE IRREGULAR...
LIND'S ANGELS WERE *TWINS*.
BUT *LIND* HAD TWO, DIDN'T SHE?

BE-SIDES...
...ONE OF THEM ISN'T AN ANGEL.
THE FAMILIAR SHOULD BE REMOVED.
NO...
WE'RE NOT TALKING ABOUT KILLING IT, YOU KNOW?
WE'LL JUST RETURN IT TO ITS EGG.

...I CAN TRY AGAIN IF YOU WANT ME TO, BUT...
Sigh
I SUSPECTED THIS. I'VE ALREADY TRIED...
HUH?!
KAKKA KAKKA
UM...
SHRIEK!
Shlorp shlorp
SPROING
STEP STEP


I'M SORRY. I UNDERSTAND. SO COULD YOU...*um*... STOP IT?
THANK YOU, BUT...
...I *CAN'T* STOP IT.

CHAPTER 168

Landscape with Angels

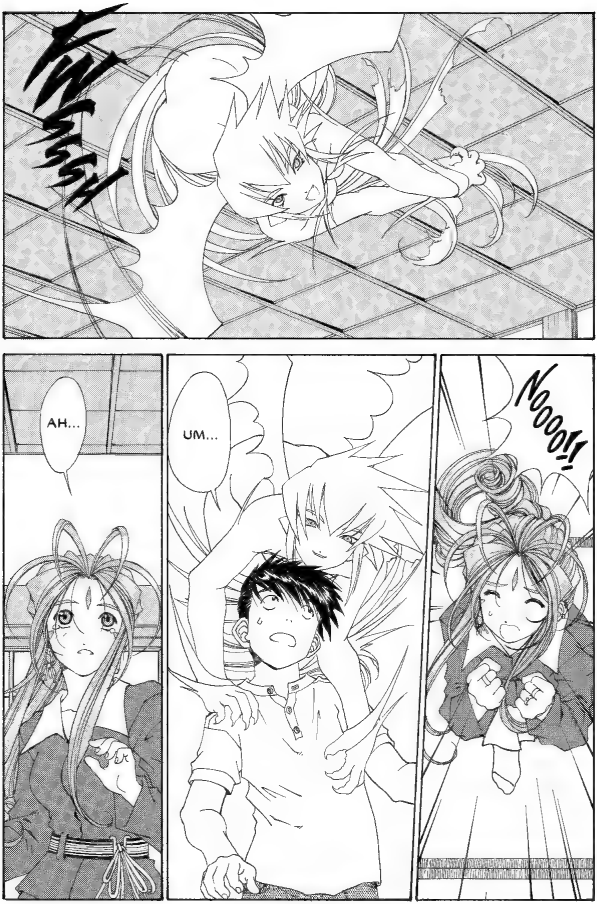
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
KLANK
KLUNK
...IT STOPPED.

...LET'S PULL IT OUT.
I DON'T KNOW HOW MUCH LONGER THIS CAN GO ON...
WE WON'T BE ABLE TO RETURN IT TO ITS EGG... BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED...
LISTEN... I'LL TRY TO PRESERVE THE FAMILIAR SOMEHOW, SO...
NO! THAT'S NO GOOD!!

...LIKE LIND'S, AGAIN--
OR I COULD TRY AND HOLD IT...
...YOU'RE SO SPECIAL. ♡
...THINK...
DON'T...
OKAY... NEVER MIND...
YES, EVEN BELLDANDY CAN'T BEAR THIS BURDEN!
THIS IS A FAMILIAR WHO'S TURNED TO GOOD! YOU CAN'T DEAL WITH THAT!
LIND'S ANGELS WERE A DIFFERENT CASE!
NOTE: SKULD DOESN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND WHAT THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT.
THAT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH...
YEAH! YEAH!
YOU MIGHT AS WELL BE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL!
KEIICHI, I ALWAYS WANTED TO TELL YOU THIS-- YOU'RE SO INDECISIVE!!

KEIICHI...
AH...
CHICK
SHAAAAA

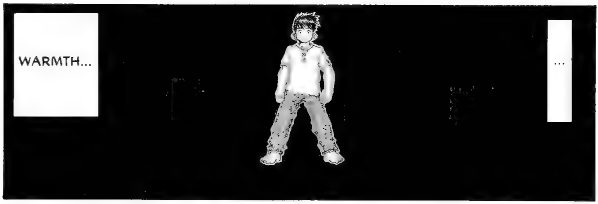
AH!!
FWSSH
NO... WAIT!!
grin


FWSSSH
AH...
UM...
NOOOO!!

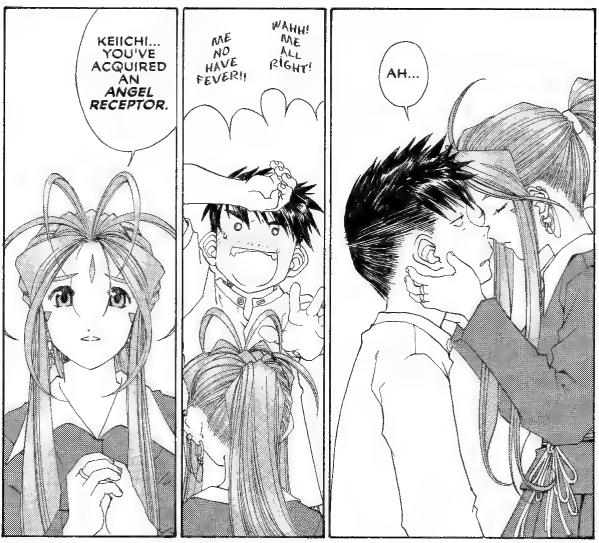
!!
KNOOSH
WWHOOOOO

WHAT?

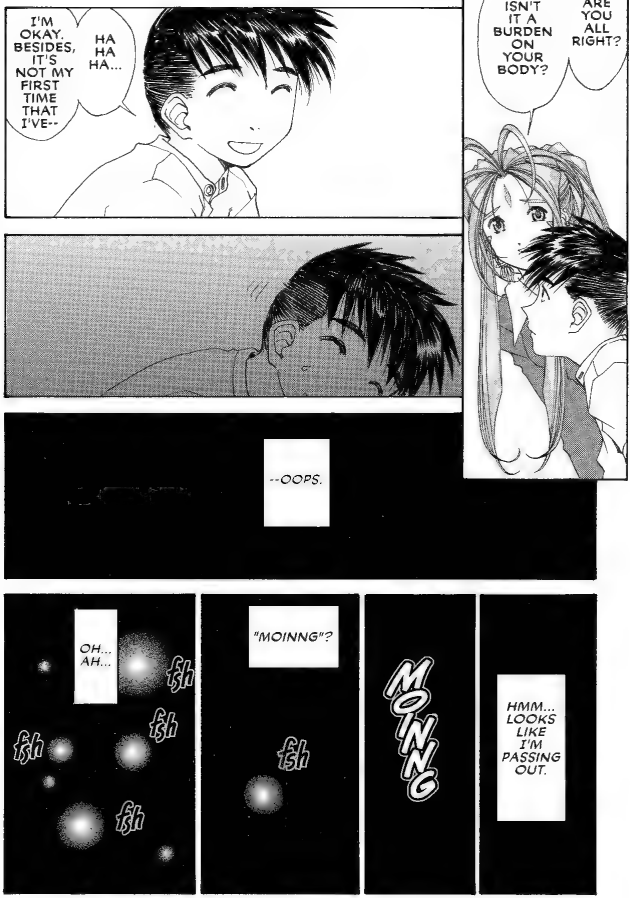
A... PETAL?
IT'S WARM...


WARMTH...
...

WARMTH?


KEIICHI... YOU'VE ACQUIRED AN ANGEL RECEPTOR.
ME NO HAVE FEVER!!
WAHH! ME ALL RIGHT!
AH...

...WHEN YOU ACCEPTED LIND'S ANGEL.
YOU MUST HAVE RECEIVED IT...
...A HUMAN MAINTAINING A RECEPTOR ...?
TRÈS BIZARRE...
LIND SAID IT'S BECAUSE I'M SUPPORT-ED...
...BY THE LOVE OF SO MANY GODDES-SES.
LOVE?
MANY GODDES-SES?
WHO?
LOVE WHO?
SHE SAID IT, NOT ME...


I'M OKAY. BESIDES, IT'S NOT MY FIRST TIME THAT I'VE--
HA HA HA...
ISN'T IT A BURDEN ON YOUR BODY?
BUT ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
--OOPS.
OH... AH...
fsh
fsh
fsh
fsh
"MOINNG"?
fsh
MOINNG
HMM... LOOKS LIKE I'M PASSING OUT.

...THIS COULD BE NICE.
WAKING UP NOW...

I DON'T THINK...
...YOU SHOULD TRY TO USE YOUR POWERS.
I WOULDN'T KNOW *HOW* TO IN THE FIRST PLACE.
AND IF I *DID* HAPPEN TO, AND PASSED OUT...
UH... I'LL GO TAKE A BATH...
?
YEAH, I WANT TO TAKE A...
...UH ?!
FINOSH
AH...
...WHAT...
...*HUH* ...?

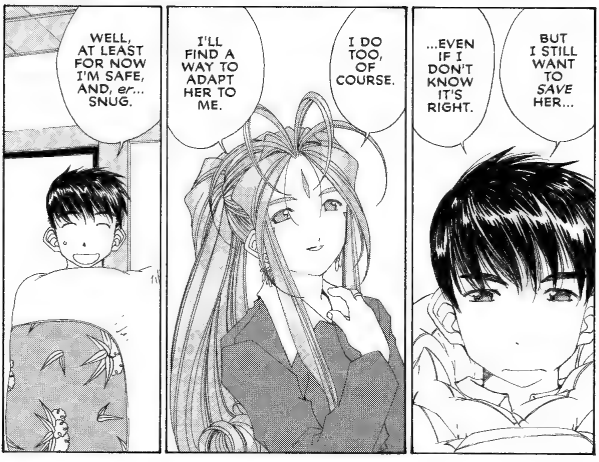
KEIICHI !!
BLOOM
?!
VWOOM
VERY CONVEN-IENT, THOSE POWERS.
BLUBB BLUBB
SPLSSHH
I THINK I SAW SOME-THING...

BOY, AM I TIRED...
CAN'T WAIT TO GET INTO MY FUTON...
um...
...whoops.
HEY....
WHOOMP

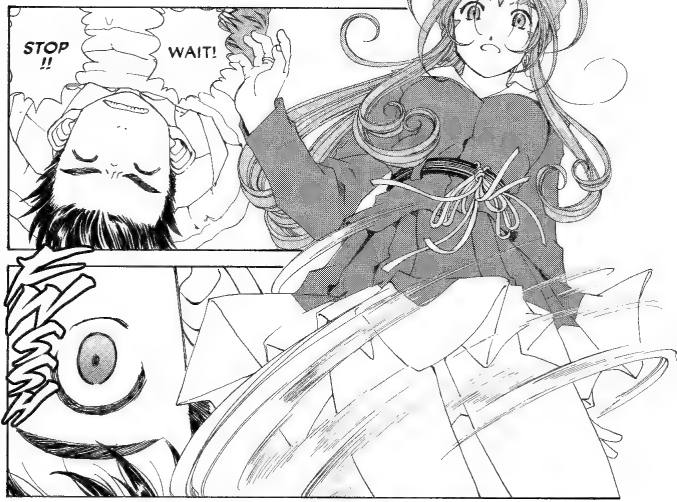
THE ANGEL CAME TO ME *HERSELF*, RIGHT?
...YOU DON'T HAVE TO SAY ANY-THING.
KEIICHI...
RIGHT. *INTO* MY FUTON.
...
TRUE.
PLEASE LOOK AFTER HER... FOR ME.
BELL-DANDY...
YEAH.
DID YOU SEE... A DARK, SNOWY LAND-SCAPE?

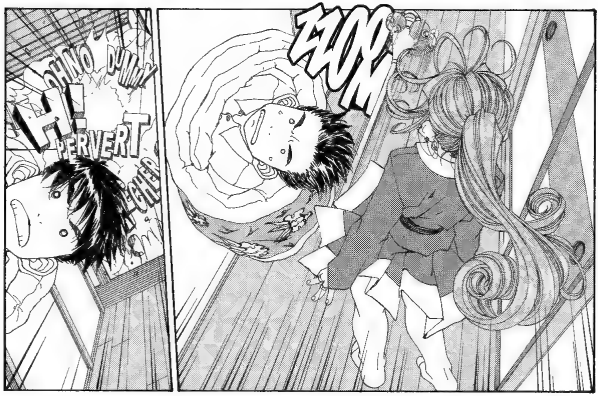
SHE'S CRYING FOR HELP.
THAT'S A PLACE CREATED BY HER MIND.

PERHAPS SHE MIGHT HAVE BEEN HAPPIER TO REMAIN A FAMILIAR.
...AND THEN THERE'S THE DARKNESS, BLACKER THAN BLACK, SHE'S BORNE SINCE BIRTH.
THERE'S A SMALL LIGHT SHE NOW KNOWS...


WELL, AT LEAST FOR NOW I'M SAFE, AND, *er*... SNUG.
I'LL FIND A WAY TO ADAPT HER TO ME.
I DO TOO, OF COURSE.
...EVEN IF I DON'T KNOW IT'S RIGHT.
BUT I STILL WANT TO *SAVE* HER...

WOW...
SHIP
THUD
THANK YOU, KEIICHI.
CONVEN-IENT, TOO. NOW I CAN SLEEP ANY-WHERE.
...
GREAT VIEWS, ALSO.
YIKES.
YIKES!

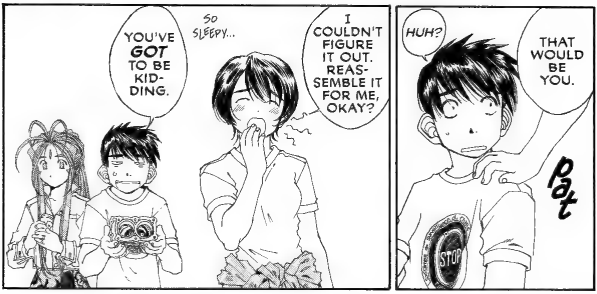

STOP !!
WAIT!
KYAAA


PERVERT
ZOOM

B-BUT, KEIICHI WAS...
KEI-ICHI!
YOU DIRTY--
WELL...
I DON'T WANT TO INTER-VENE...
...UNLESS CIRCUM-STANCES FORCE ME.
THE NEXT DAY...

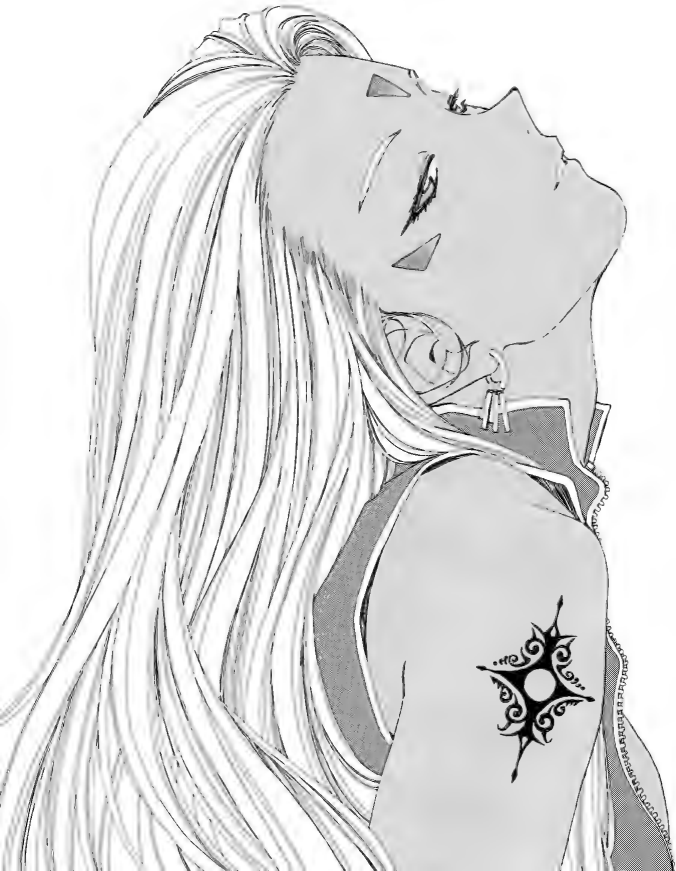
G'D MOOORN-ING...
AH!
mur...
...nnn.
YOU WERE AT THIS *ALL NIGHT LONG?*
NO WAY...

I KNOW NOW...
HUH...
...BY WHICH I MEAN, OF COURSE, ASK THE EXPERT!
IF YOU WANT RICE CAKES... GO TO THE ONE WHO MAKES 'EM!
NO WAY !!
YOU DO?!
STOP


YOU'VE GOT TO BE KID-DING.
So SLEEPY...
I COULDN'T FIGURE IT OUT. REAS-SEMBLE IT FOR ME, OKAY?
HUH?
THAT WOULD BE YOU.
Pat
STOP

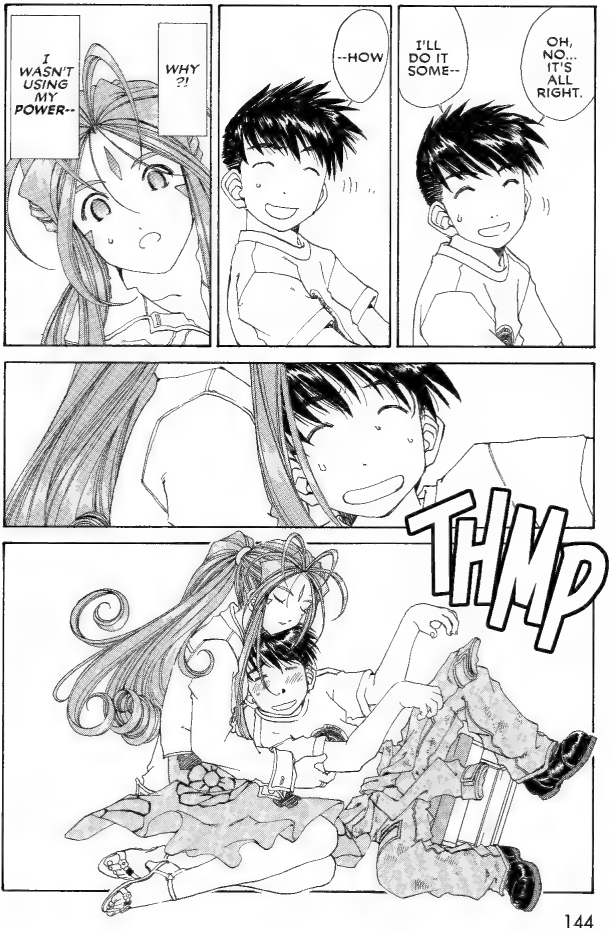
CHAPTER 169

What We Would Save



BOY, I REALLY WANT TO...
...I REALLY WANT TO...
...
TOP

PUT THIS ALL TOGETHER!!
?!?
SHALL I DO IT?
IT WAS MY FAULT TO BEGIN WITH...
...I GUESS IT DOESN'T ALWAYS WORK.


OH, NO... IT'S ALL RIGHT.
I'LL DO IT SOME--
--HOW
WHY ?!
I WASN'T USING MY POWER--
THMP

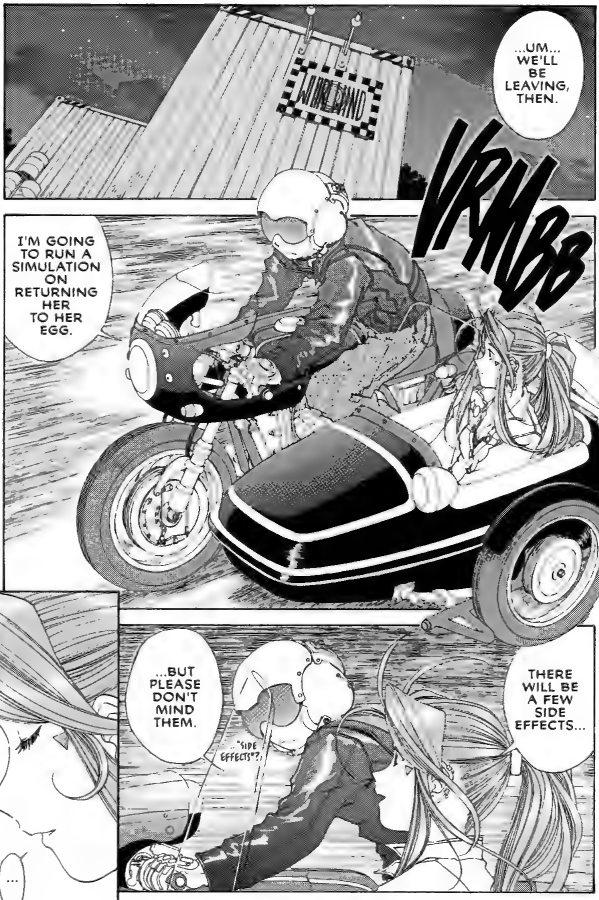
THIS GOING FAINT ALL THE TIME HAS ITS ADVAN-TAGES...
haa
WHAT'S ALL THE COMMO-TION?!
WHAT KIND OF SECRET MOVES ARE YOU USING THIS--
I DON'T THINK YOU SHOULD BE USING...
...THAT MOVE AT WORK.

...HUH ?!
IT'S...
...IT'S FINISHED !!

THE PLASTIC MODEL I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO BUILDING...
ha... ha...
...MAYBE I NEED SOME MORE SLEEP...
DID I BUILD THIS AND NOT EVEN KNOW IT...?
I THINK YOU DO, TOO.
wobble wobble
I'D BETTER WATCH OUT...
...AND TRY NOT TO WISH FOR ANY-THING...
IT'S ALMOST LUNCH TIME, ISN'T IT?
I'LL GO BOIL SOME WATER.
UM...

NOW... BOIL IT QUICK AND...
OOPS
HSSSSS
bloop
SHE'LL DEFINITELY BE IN A BAD MOOD IF I WAKE HER...
SLOWLY, SLOWLY...
WHY... I'M NOT DOING ANY-THING!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!
PSSSHHH
WOOMF
gloop gloop
BLUBBL BLUBBL

chakka chakka chakka
GLOOP GLOOP
...
aaahhh! I FEEL REFRESHED.
UH...
WELL...
...VARIOUS STUFF.
WHY ARE YOU LOOKING SO DOWN?
JUST BECAUSE I WAS ASLEEP ALL DAY.
OHH... SO-RRYYYY.
NO... THAT'S NOT IT EITHER...


...UM... WE'LL BE LEAVING, THEN.
VRMBB
I'M GOING TO RUN A SIMULATION ON RETURNING HER TO HER EGG.
THERE WILL BE A FEW SIDE EFFECTS...
"SIDE EFFECTS"?
...BUT PLEASE DON'T MIND THEM.
...

NO...
...THAT'S NO GOOD...
SING-ING?
♪♫
♪♫
♪♫
♪♫
THERE MUST BE AN ANSWER... I *WILL* FIND IT.

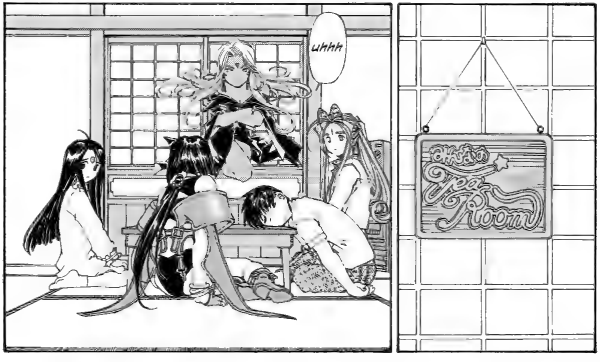
SACRIFICING SOMEONE CANNOT BE...
♪♫
...THE *RIGHT* ANSWER.
BELL-DANDY'S SINGING... IT'S SO GENTLE...
...WHEN YOU'RE TIRED, IT'S...
THE BEST...
LULLA-BY...
tunk
♪
♫

NO!!
WHAT'S WITH THAT GUY IN FRONT OF US?
HE'S CREEPY...
MUST NOT...
FALL
A-SLEEP...
AND...
DIE
I MEAN, NO, IT'S NOT I JUST AM NOW!
NO!!
FWOOSH
I WANT TO GET HOME QUICK...
QUICK-LY...
TAKE ME HOME RIGHT NOW!
NOOO
NOOO
VWOOMP

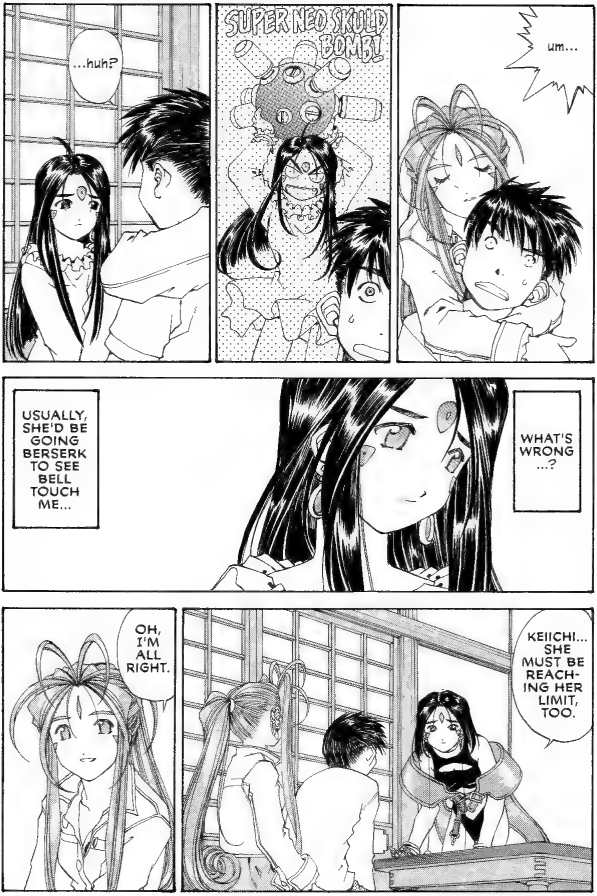
KTANGG
ARE WE REALLY GONNA DO THIS?
SOUNDS LIKE THEY'RE BACK.

YOU DON'T HAVE TO PARTICI-PATE...
...BUT IF YOU DON'T, KEEP YOUR MOUTH SHUT.
YOU DO UNDER-STAND...
...THAT THERE'S NO OTHER WAY.
...I ...I ...YEAH.
Poing
Poing
WEL-COME HOME...
...

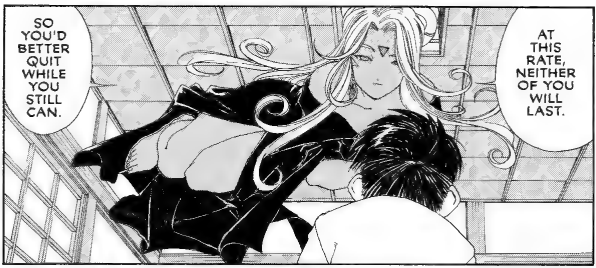
THAT WAS QUICK.

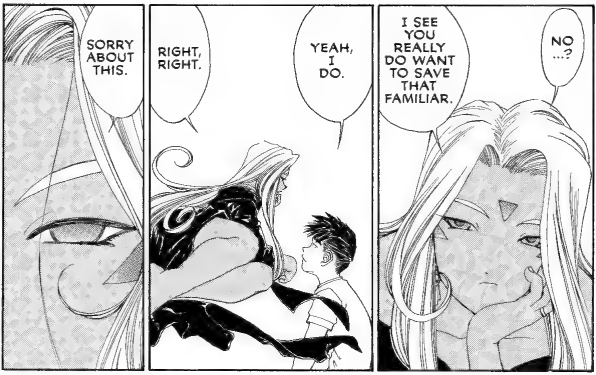

UHHH
Yoga Room

LET'S END THIS...
KEIICHI, THAT'S ENOUGH...
...LET'S REMOVE THE FAMILIAR.
MORE LIKE SEMI-COMATOSE.
I'M OKAY. JUST A LITTLE TIRED.


...huh?
SUPER NEO SKULD BOMB!
um...
USUALLY, SHE'D BE GOING BERSERK TO SEE BELL TOUCH ME...
WHAT'S WRONG ...?
OH, I'M ALL RIGHT.
KEIICHI... SHE MUST BE REACHING HER LIMIT, TOO.

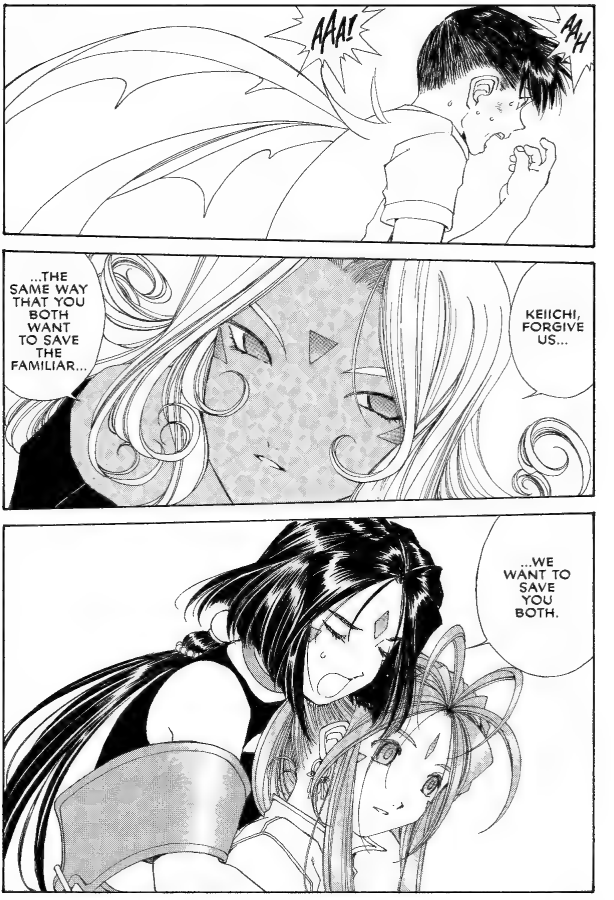
AH...
tmp
NO...
THMP
...YOU WOULD HAVE FALLEN IF I HADN'T CAUGHT YOU THEN.


SO YOU'D BETTER QUIT WHILE YOU STILL CAN.
AT THIS RATE, NEITHER OF YOU WILL LAST.


SORRY ABOUT THIS.
RIGHT, RIGHT.
YEAH, I DO.
I SEE YOU REALLY DO WANT TO SAVE THAT FAMILIAR.
NO ...?

A
SEAL
SQUARE
!!

...
WHA...?!
FWPP
GAH...!


AAA!
AH
KEIICHI, FORGIVE US...
...THE SAME WAY THAT YOU BOTH WANT TO SAVE THE FAMILIAR...
...WE WANT TO SAVE YOU BOTH.

WHAT-
EVER
IT
TAKES.
AAAH!!

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English-language version
produced by Dark Horse Comics

OH MY GODDESS! Vol. 26
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Published by Dark Horse Manga
A division of Dark Horse Comics, Inc.
10956 SE Main Street
Milwaukie, OR 97222
www.darkhorse.com

To find a comics shop in your area,
call the Comic Shop Locator Service
toll-free at 1-888-266-4226

First edition: April 2007
ISBN-10: 1-59307-715-7
ISBN-13: 978-1-59307-715-0

1 3 5 7 9 10 8 6 4 2

Printed in Canada

letters to the ENCHANTRESS

10956 SE Main Street, Milwaukie, Oregon 97222
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Since everyone else is talking about the new format, I will put in my two cents' worth as well. While I will admit that the unflipped format does take some getting used to, in the end it makes manga (Japanese comics) easier to read, especially in the case of very complex works such as those by manga-ka (artists) such as Shirow Masamune (*Ghost in the Shell, Orion, Appleseed* . . .). It is also closer to what the manga-ka intended.

There is another factor that seldom gets mentioned. Flipping a manga takes time. Time is money. Compare the price of the old flipped format to the new unflipped format (not the only factor, to be sure, but . . .). This means more people can afford to buy a manga, or perhaps they can buy more of them.

One way the new format is *not* the same as the original is the lack of a slipcover. While the cover is the same, there are two illustrations on the inside of the slipcovers' flaps. The Japanese Volume 24 of *OMG!* (ISBN4-06-321136-3) has an illustration of Peorth wearing even less than she usually does (sorry guys, still PG).

I think Dana Lewis has done a great job in the translation, and the transition to using the Japanese honorifics was done very well. I almost missed it. However, there is a problem with the series that has nothing to do with the translation. In the Norse myths, Urd, Belldandy (Verdandi), and Skuld all are born at the beginning of time. Their appearances are different only because, as fates, they each govern a different aspect of time. Yet in the *OMG!* series, Urd is said to be the older, and Skuld, the younger, sisters of Belldandy. Skuld has to practice and discover her power because of her young age. Fair enough. But in Volume 21, page 77, Peorth says to Keiichi "We're voyagers across time. Always have been. Always will be." Both cannot be true, and it begs the question, were there other goddesses serving as fates before the current ones?

By the way, some people are confused about what is going on with the video crew on pages 15 through 33 in Volume 24. The person being interviewed is the Drag Racing Queen that Megumi raced in (flopped) Volume 15, *Hand in Hand*, and the "IT" they are talking about is the ghost of Chihiro's old motorcycle featured in a volume I don't recall **[Vol. 18—CGH]**.

Living in Los Angeles, I get to see a lot of what goes on in manga and anime before it hits the rest of the United States. I fell in love with the character of Hild from a plastic model kit I saw, and there is more of Peorth and Hild in upcoming issues, as well as a new outfit for Belldandy. Yet, sadly some of the characters are lost forever. Otaki's bride-to-be, Satoko Yamano (*OMG!* Vol. 1 *Wrong Number ISBN 1-56971-669-2*) never reappears, and Sora Hasegawa's crush on Sayoko's slimy cousin, Toshiyuki Aoshima,

is never resolved. And Keiichi's *kawaii* sister Megumi never gets a boyfriend. Come on, Fujishima-san, let's give some others a little *aio* (romantic love interest).

As a side note, the Japanese love a play on words, and this shows up in the Nekomi Tech's MCC attire. Neko = a cat, so their logo is a cat's head. Ichi = the number one, so Keiichi's jacket reads K (ke) 1 (ichi). Hasegawa and Tamiya are the names of model kit manufacturers.

Yours,
Andrew F. Gillis
Torrance, CA

Torrance has what is probably the most important Japanese-American community in Southern California, and was moreover for three glorious years between 1999 and 2002 blessed with having the U.S. branch of the world's greatest otaku boutique, Mandarake. Many fans, including myself, still mourn the loss of this store, which was located in Mitsuwa Marketplace. And any fan going to Tokyo, of course, should never mind Akiba—head for Mandarake's home store (actually, a complex of *nineteen* stores on three stories!) in Nakano. They have English, Spanish, and French-speaking staff, and you will truly recall Tanaka's line from *Otaku no Video*, "Welcome, comrade. This is our homeland."

As you point out, the slipcover format of the original Japanese books provides extra space for illustrations, although sometimes we do try to feature them in the English editions as well—for example, the picture of Lind on page one of this book is from the inside front cover flap of the original Japanese volume. In the case of *Oh My Goddess!*, the new, unflopped editions actually take almost as much work to produce as the old, flopped ones, for the simple reason the sound FX are still retouched (as Dark Horse's longest-running manga title—actually, its longest-running title, period—I was reluctant as editor to make too many stylistic changes besides the obvious one of unflopping the manga itself).

The flopped-to-unflopped transition has meant therefore going from the equivalent of producing one chapter of *Oh My Goddess!* a month (as for many years it was a monthly comic book series) to three to four chapters a month (that is, one graphic novel's worth every two months)—a 350-400% increase in output without the production itself becoming any simpler. Moreover, several of the unflopped volumes contain bonus material not featured in the original flopped editions. With Volume 26, I believe, we have finally completed that transition, which is owed to the very hard work (which is, of course, continuing even as I type this) of the adaptation staff.

Because of such things as its emotional sensitivity and penchant for elegant, flowing costumes, *Oh My Goddess!* isn't usually thought of as a fan service–oriented title, although perhaps that reputation is in truth unwarranted ^_^ Sometimes things will suddenly pop out at you, as on the title page for Vol. 4's Chapter 26—but what about Belldandy, of all people, leaving us behind in Vol. 25, p. 41, or the pose with which Hild ended that volume and began this one—which, as translator Dana Lewis points out, is straight out of Shirow Masamune?

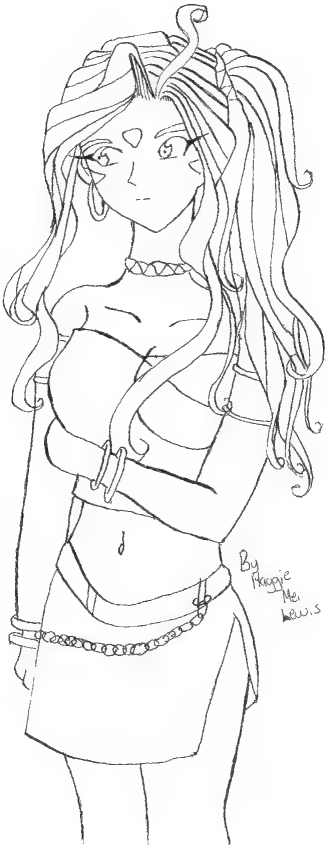
And, just as Shirow in *Appleseed* uses Greek mythology with considerable artistic license, so, I think, does Fujishima do the same in *Oh My Goddess!* with Norse mythology, mixing it with scientific concepts, traditional Western and Japanese magic, and other elements. I believe he leaves in enough ambiguity that we can't

be sure of such contradictions (likewise, we don't know for sure about whether "loose ends" of the plot will ever be resolved). Of course, some fans also go to great lengths to "resolve" possible contradictions on Mr. Fujishima's behalf, theorizing how things might fit together—actually, this is a classic fan activity, and I tried it myself ten years ago on *Neon Genesis Evangelion*, and ten years before that, on *Robotech* ^_^

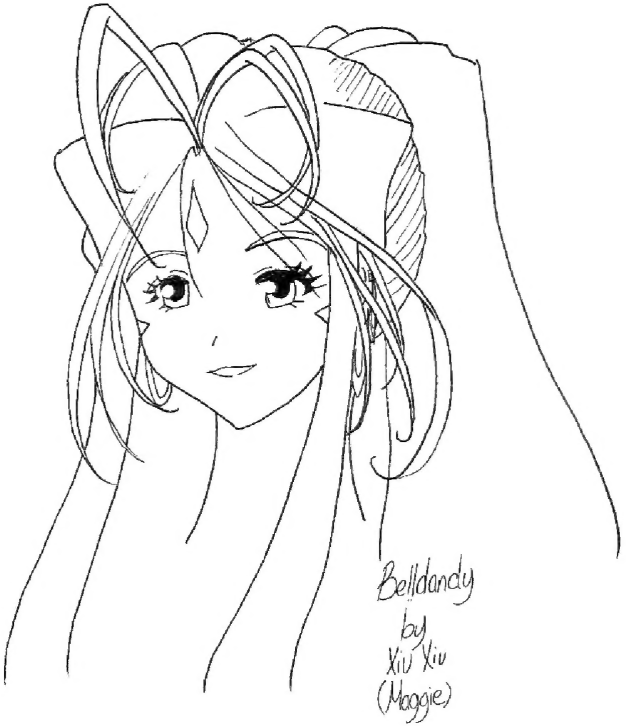
The titles "Wrong Number" and "Hand in Hand" that Mr. Gillis refers to, are, of course, the older, flopped versions of *Oh My Goddess!* As mentioned before, between 1996 and 2005, Dark Horse published the equivalent of the first 20 Japanese volumes of *Oh My Goddess!* in 19 books (the reason there were 19, not 20 of these flopped books wasn't because chapters were left out, but because the flopped books were organized by story arc instead of ending in the middle of a story as the Japanese editions often do). Some of these flopped books had volume numbers on them, and some didn't, but one way you can always tell the difference without seeing them is that the flopped books all had volume titles such as "Wrong Number" and "Hand in Hand," whereas the current unflopped editions only have volume numbers, never volume titles. For more information on the flopped editions, please see the ad in the back of this volume.

As you can see from the next few pages, the fan art is still coming in strong, and if you're considering sending in some of your own, then stop considering, and start sending! The following four illustrations are courtesy of Maggie Mei Lewis, AKA Xiu Xiu. Thank you very much, and see you all again in the next volume!

—CGH

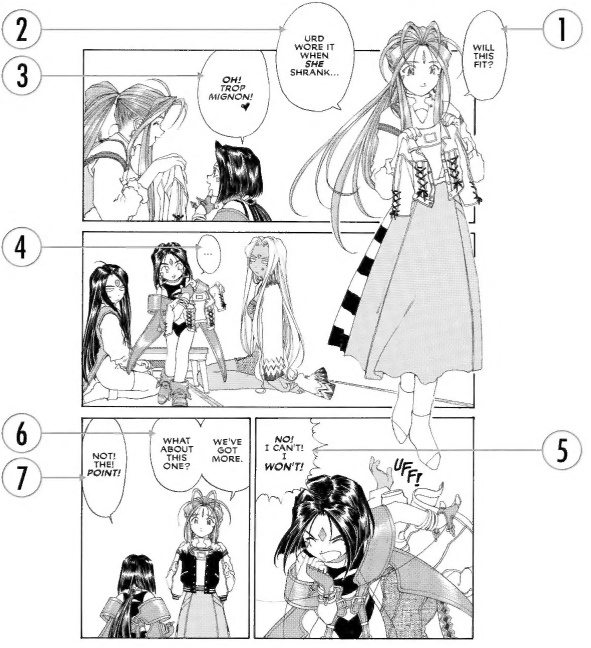


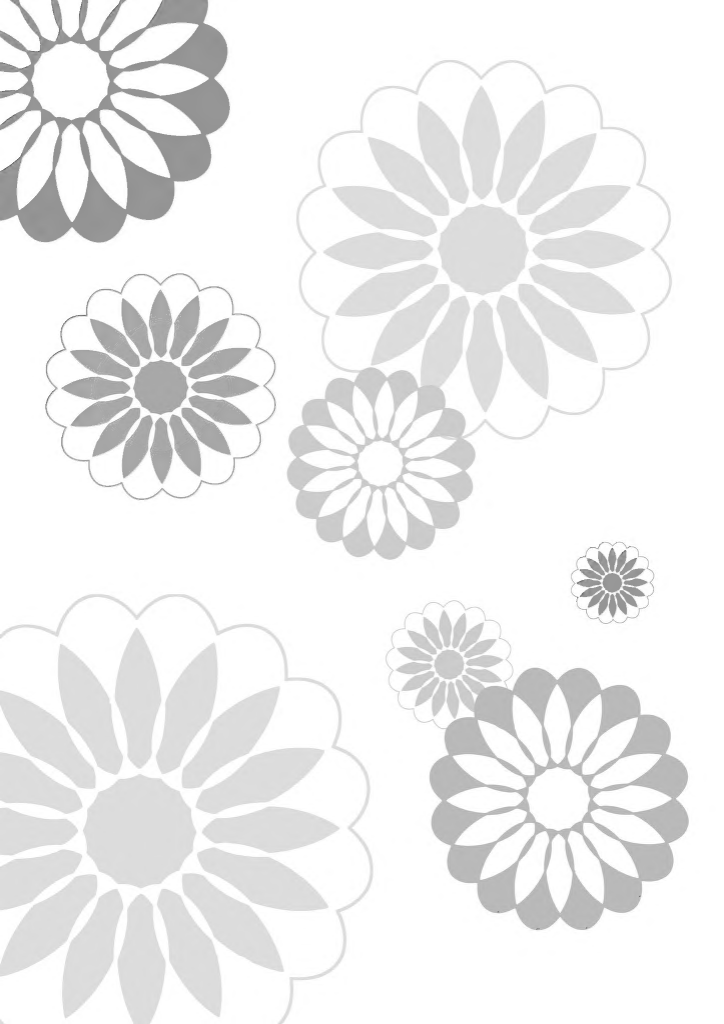
by Maggie Ho Lewis


Belldandy
by
Xiu Xiu
(Maggie)

STOP! This is the back of the book!

This manga collection is translated into English, but arranged in right-to-left reading format to maintain the artwork's visual orientation as originally drawn and published in Japan. If you've never read comics this way before, take a look at the diagram below to give yourself an idea of how to go about it. Basically, you'll be starting in the upper right-hand corner, and will read each word balloon and panel moving right-to-left. It may take a little getting used to, but you should get the hang of it very quickly. Have fun! If this is the millionth manga you've read this way, never mind. ^_^





MANGA/HUMOR

Oh My Goddess!

ああっ女神さまっ 26

THE DEVIL CAME DOWN

to Tarikihongan! As Lind, the Fifth Goddess, battles Hild to defeat the Eater of Angels, it is the weaponless, powerless, human Keiichi whose heart holds the key to victory. But the lingering familiar within Belldandy is causing her magic to make strange hiccups, and it may be Keiichi again who must serve as the vessel of diabolic forces! Can he succeed without Chihiro finally catching on to the facts of his cosmic love life?

Dark Horse continues *Oh My Goddess!*, now in the much-requested, inexpensive right-to-left format!

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